E/1988/SR.1-17

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1988

PLENARY MEETINGS

VOLUME I

Summary records of the meetings held during
the organizational session for 1988
and the first regular session of 1988

UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1991

NOTE

The *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988* consist of the summary records of Plenary Meetings, incorporating corrections requested by delegations and any necessary editorial modifications, the *Supplements* (Nos. 1-15) and the *List of Delegations*.

The present volume contains the final summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during its organizational session for 1988 (New York, 2-5 February and 3 March) and its first regular session of 1988 (New York, 3-27 May).

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Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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In 1988, the Economic and Social Council was composed of the following fifty-four Member States: Australia, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

In addition to the States members of the Council, the other States Members of the United Nations, and any other State invited by the Council to participate, may submit proposals, in accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Council.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
ANC	African National Congress of South Africa
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
DIESA	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs
DLCO-EA	Desert-Locust Control Organization for East Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLO	Emergency Centre for Locust Operations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross domestic product
ILO	International Labour Organisation
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCLALAV	Joint Anti-Locust and Anti-Aviarian Organization
RENAMO	Mozambique National Resistance
SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
WFP	World Food Programme

AGENDA OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1988

Adopted by the Council at its 1st plenary meeting, on 2 February 1988

1. Election of the Bureau
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Basic programme of work of the Council for 1988 and 1989
4. Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions
5. Provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1988 and related organizational matters

AGENDA OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1988

Adopted by the Council at its 6th plenary meeting, on 3 May 1988

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
3. International Covenants on Human Rights: (*a*) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; (*b*) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
5. Consideration of the necessary arrangements for the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990
6. United Nations University
7. International co-operation in tax matters
8. Public administration and finance
9. Cartography
10. Human rights
11. Advancement of women
12. Social development
13. Narcotic drugs
14. Elections and nominations
15. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1988

CHECK-LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NOTE. Listed below are the documents pertaining to the work of the Council during its organizational session for 1988 and its first regular session of 1988.

Document number	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
	Organizational session for 1988		
E/1988/1 and Add.1	Draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1988 and 1989	3	
E/1988/2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	2	
E/1988/3 and Add.1	Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council, and confirmation of representatives of the functional commissions: note by the Secretary-General	4	See in the present volume, 4th meeting
E/1988/39 and Add.1	Code of conduct on transnational corporations: note by the Secretary-General	2	
E/1988/40	Review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990: note by the Secretary-General	3	
E/1988/41	Appointment of members of the Committee for Development Planning: note by the Secretary-General	4	*Idem*
E/1988/43	Interim election to fill one vacancy in the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control: note by the Secretary-General	4	*Idem*
E/1988/44	Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development: note by the Secretary-General	3	
E/1988/INF/2	Calendar of conferences and meetings for 1988: note by the Secretariat		
E/1988/INF/3	List of delegations		
E/1988/INF/4 and Add.1	Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1988		For the printed text see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 1* (E/1988/88), resolutions 1988/1 and 1988/2 and decisions 1988/101 to 1988/106
E/1988/L.6	Election of members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting: note by the Secretary-General	4	See, in the present volume, 4th meeting, para. 3, and 5th meeting, paras. 1 and 2
E/1988/L.11	Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, German Democratic Republic, Poland and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, draft decision	3	*Idem*, 4th meeting, para. 18
E/1988/L.12	*Idem*	3	*Idem*, para. 18
E/1988/L.13	Draft decisions 1 to 5 proposed by the President, on behalf of the members of the Bureau of the Council, as a result of informal consultations	2, 3 and 5	*Idem*, paras. 6 to 17
E/1988/L.14	Somalia, on behalf of the Group of African States: draft resolution	3	*Idem*, paras. 19 to 26
E/1988/L.15	Iraq and Mauritania: draft resolution	3	*Idem*, paras. 27 to 56
E/1988/SR.1 to 5	Provisional summary records of the 1st to 5th plenary meetings held by the Council during its organizational session for 1988		The final texts of the records are contained in the present volume
	First regular session of 1988[*]		
A/42/492	Study on the effects of racial discrimination in the fields of education, training and employment as it affects the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers: report of the Secretary-General	2	
A/43/31	Report of the Council of the United Nations University (January-December 1987)	6	*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 31*

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[*] For the 1982, 1984 and 1986 documents of the Council on the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its second session, as well as for the documents of the Committee itself, see E/1988/14, annex IV.

Document number	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
E/1988/4 and Corr.1	Monitoring of the implementation of the Nairobi forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women: reporting system for monitoring and review and appraisal of progress in the advancement of women: report of the Secretary-General	11	
E/1988/5	Initial reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning rights covered by articles 13 to 15, in accordance with the third stage of the programme established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1988 (LX): note by the Secretary-General	3 (*b*)	For the consideration of reports submitted by States parties, see E/1988/14
E/1988/5/Add.1	________: report of Trinidad and Tobago	3 (*b*)	
E/1988/5/Add.2	________: report of the Philippines	3 (*b*)	
E/1988/6	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting to the Council the tenth report of the International Labour Organisation	3 (*b*)	
E/1988/7	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the second report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	3 (*b*)	The report was received only in English and French
E/1988/8	Analysis of the replies received from Governments on action taken under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General	2	
E/1988/9 and Add.1 and 2	Report of the Secretary-General	2	
E/1988/10	United Nations training course on the preparation of national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination: report of the Secretary-General	2	
E/1988/11	Work of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters: report of the Secretary-General	7	
E/1988/12-E/CN.4/1988/88	Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-fourth session (1 February-11 March 1988)	10	*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum*
E/1988/13-E/CN.7/1988/14	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its tenth special session (8-19 February 1988)	13	*Ibid., Supplement No. 3*
E/1988/14-E/C.12/1988/4	Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its second session (8-25 February 1988)	3 (*b*)	*Ibid., Supplement No. 4*
E/1988/15-E/CN.6/1988/11	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-second session (14-23 March 1988)	11	Unedited version; the final version will be issued as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 5*
E/1988/21	Special action programme in public administration and management for Africa: report of the Secretary-General	8	
E/1988/22	Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: report of the Secretary-General	9	
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E/1988/24	Respect for the right of everyone to own property alone as well as in association with others and its contribution to the economic and social development of Member States: note by the Secretary-General	10	
E/1988/25-A/43/170	Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region: report of the Secretary-General	10	
E/1988/26-A/43/305	Measures to be taken against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror: report of the Secretary-General	10	
E/1988/27	Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in South Africa: note by the Secretariat	10	
E/1988/28	Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its Eighth Session	11	
E/1988/29	Co-ordination and information in the field of youth: report by the Secretary-General	12	
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E/1988/31	Review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice: report of the Secretary-General	12	
E/1988/32	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General	12	
E/1988/33	Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1987	13	For the report, see United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.XI.3

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E/1988/34	Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: note by the Secretary-General	14	See, in the present volume, 15th meeting
E/1988/45	Review of recurrent documents and publications: note by the Secretariat		
E/1988/46 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 and 3	Election of nine members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*, 14th meeting
E/1988/48 and Add.1 and 2	Committee on Crime Prevention and Control: note by the Secretariat	14	*Idem*
E/1988/49	Note by the Secretariat	3	
E/1988/51	Note verbale, dated 4 April 1988, from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	12	
E/1988/66	Letter dated 29 April from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	1	
E/1988/83	Application for hearings by non-governmental organizations: report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	10 to 13	
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E/1988/85	Methods applied under different human rights instruments as regards their financial implications: note by the Secretary-General	10	
E/1988/86	Letter dated 11 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	1	
E/1988/87	Report of the Second (Social) Committee	13	*Idem*, 13th meeting
E/1988/89 and Add.1	*Idem*	10	*Idem*, 10th and 16th meetings
E/1988/90 and Add.1	*Idem*	11	*Idem*, 15th and 16th meetings
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E/1988/92	Report of the First (Economic) Committee	6	*Idem*, 13th meeting
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E/1988/95	*Idem*	9	*Idem*
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E/1988/C.2/L.1	Conference of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of a convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances: draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Second (Social) Committee on the basis of informal consultations	13	See E/1988/87
E/1988/C.2/L.2	Tunisia, on behalf of the Group of 77: amendments to draft resolution XIII contained in document E/1988/15	11	See E/1988/90/Add.1
E/1988/C.2/L.3	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire: draft resolution	11	See E/1988/90
E/1988/C.2/L.4	Review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Greece, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia: draft resolution	12	See E/1988/91
E/1988/C.2/L.5	Australia: amendments to draft resolution XII contained in document E/1988/15	11	See E/1988/90
E/1988/C.2/L.6	Right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation: Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Fiji, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zaire: draft decision	10	See E/1988/89/Add.1
E/1988/C.2/L.7	Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft decision	12	See E/1988/91

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E/1988/C.2/L.8	United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons: Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, United States of America and Yugoslavia: draft resolution	12	*Idem*
E/1988/C.2/L.9	Achievement of social justice: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America: draft resolution	12	*Idem*
E/1988/C.2/L.10	Extreme poverty: Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, India, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sudan and Venezuela: draft resolution	12	*Idem*
E/1988/C.2/L.10/Rev.1	________: *[same sponsors]*, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay: revised draft resolution	12	*Idem*
E/1988/C.2/L.11	Infringement of trade union rights in South Africa: Sudan on behalf of the African States: draft resolution	10	See E/1988/89/Add.1
E/1988/C.2/L.12	Enlargement of the Commission on the Status of Women: draft decision submitted by a Vice-Chairman of the Second (Social) Committee (Belgium) on the basis of informal consultations	11	See E/1988/90/Add.1
E/1988/C.2/L.13	The effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights: Argentina, Canada, Denmark, Norway and Netherlands: draft resolution	10	See E/1988/89/Add.1
E/1988/C.2/L.14	Realization of the right to adequate housing: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Panama, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Viet Nam: draft resolution	10	*Idem*
E/1988/INF/5	Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1988		For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 1* (E/1988/88), resolutions 1988/3 to 1988/48 and decisions 1988/107 to 1988/151
E/1988/INF/6	List of delegations		
E/1988/L.1	Election of members of the functional commissions of the Council: note by the Secretary-General	14	See, in the present volume, 14th meeting
E/1988/L.2	Election of 16 members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*
E/1988/L.3	Election of 20 members of the Commission on Human Settlements: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*
E/1988/L.4	Election of 16 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*, 15th and 16th meetings
E/1988/L.5	Election of 21 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*, 15th meeting
E/1988/L.6	Election of 25 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*, 14th meeting
E/1988/L.7	Election of five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*, 15th meeting
E/1988/L.8	Nominations of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*, 14th meeting
E/1988/L.9	Nomination of 12 members of the World Food Council: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*
E/1988/L.10	Election of 32 members of the Committee on Natural Resources: note by the Secretary-General	14	*Idem*
E/1988/L.16	State of preparedness of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat		
E/1988/L.16/Rev.1	Revised state of preparedness of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat		
E/1988/L.17 and Rev.1	Organization of the work of the session: note by the Bureau	1	
E/1988/L.18	Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its second session	3 (*b*)	Preliminary version; for the final text, see E/1988/14
E/1988/L.18/Add.1	Programme budget implications of recommendations contained in document E/1988/L.18: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	3 (*b*)	
E/1988/L.19	Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its seventh session	4	Preliminary version; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/43/38)
E/1988/L.20	Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1988: note by the Secretariat	15	

Document number	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
E/1988/L.21	Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: note by the Secretary-General	14	See, in the present volume, 15th session
E/1988/L.22	International Covenants on Human Rights: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Senegal and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution	3 (*b*)	*Idem*, 10th to 12th meetings
E/1988/L.22/Rev.1	________: [*same sponsors*], Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru: revised draft resolution	3 (*b*)	*Idem*, 12th meeting
E/1988/L.23	________: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Italy, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution	3	*Idem*, 10th to 12th meetings
E/1988/L.23/Rev.1	________: [*same sponsors*]: revised draft resolution	3	*Idem*, 12th meeting
E/1988/L.24	Sudan, on behalf of the African States: draft resolution	2	*Idem*, 11th and 12th meetings
E/1988/L.25	Sudan, on behalf of the Group of African States, which were joined by Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, France, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution	1	*Idem*, 12th meeting
E/1988/L.26	Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document E/1988/L.24: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	2	*Idem*, 12th meeting
E/1988/L.28	Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia: draft resolution	4	*Idem*, 13th and 16th meetings
E/1988/L.29	International co-operation to integrate women in development: Canada: draft decision	15	*Idem*, 17th meeting
E/1988/L.30	Arrangements for the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990: draft decision submitted by a Vice-President of the Council (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), on the basis of informal consultations	5	*Idem*, 17th meeting
E/1988/NGO/1	Written statement submitted by the Habitat International Coalition, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (Roster)	3 (*b*)	
E/1988/NGO/2	Written statement submitted by the Four Directions Council, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category II)	3 (*b*)	
E/1988/NGO/3	Written statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, Soroptimist International, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, and Zonta International (Category I), the Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Federation of Human Rights, the International Federation of Social Workers, the International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, Pax Romana, Socialist International Women, the Women's International Zionist Organization, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Federation of Methodist Women, the World Jewish Congress, and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (Category II)	3 (*b*)	
E/1988/SR.6 to 17	Provisional summary records of the sixth to seventeenth plenary meetings held by the Council during its first regular session of 1988		The final texts of the records are contained in the present volume

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A/43/3/Rev.1	Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1988		*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 3*
E/1988/88	Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its organizational session for 1988 and its first regular session of 1988		*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 1*

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1988

Summary records of the 1st to 5th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters, New York, from 2 to 5 February and on 3 March 1988

1st meeting

Tuesday, 2 February 1988, at 10.45 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland).

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.1

Opening of the session

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council for 1988.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the Bureau

2. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect its President for 1988, reminding it of rule 18 of its rules of procedure, according to which due regard should be had for the equitable geographical rotation of the office among the regional groups. In 1988, it was the turn of a representative of a country from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to be elected President. The Secretary-General had been informed that that Group was putting forward two candidates for the office of President of the Economic and Social Council: Mr. Andrés Aguilar (Venezuela) and Mr. Lloyd M. H. Barnett (Jamaica).

3. Mr. LABERGE (Canada) was very surprised that the Council proposed to elect its President by secret ballot. The event was unprecedented: so far, application of the principle of equitable geographical rotation had obviated the need for that procedure. Presumably the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had explored in vain all other ways of reaching an agreement or a compromise.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Papadatos (Greece) and Mr. Turay (Sierra Leone) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	52
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	51
Required majority:	26
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Aguilar	28
Mr. Barnett	23

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Andrés Aguilar (Venezuela) was elected President.

Mr. Aguilar (Venezuela) took the Chair.

4. The PRESIDENT thanked all members of the Council who had taken part in the ballot.

5. The United Nations was in a critical phase, the complexity and difficulties of which could not be wholly ascribed to the financial crisis. In the process of reflection on the current possibilities of the Organization, priority should be given to the in-depth study to be undertaken by the Special Commission which was expected to produce recommendations and conclusions.

6. The Council should resume the important role that it had played for years in the Organization and effectively perform the functions entrusted to it by the Charter. If representation in the Council was of a very high level and if time was not wasted on pointless argument, the Council could properly co-ordinate the activities of all organs of the economic and social sectors in the United Nations and undertake the global study of the intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields.

7. Pursuant to rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect four Vice-Presidents. The President was informed that, following informal consultations within the regional groups, the following candidates had been proposed: Mr. Salim Bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby (Oman), Mr. Finn Jønck (Denmark), Mr.

Abdillahi Said Osman (Somalia) and Mr. Oleg N. Pashkevich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic).

Mr. Salim Bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby (Oman), Mr. Finn Jønck (Denmark), Mr. Abdillahi Said Osman (Somalia) and Mr. Oleg N. Pashkevich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1988/2)

The agenda was adopted.

8. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that, at the end of 1987, the Secretary-General had voiced his concern in the face of the current economic situation and its serious impact on many developing countries. However, those difficulties could be overcome if all countries made determined efforts to remedy the weaknesses in their respective economic performances and to harmonize their policies. Also, the slight improvement in the political climate, induced by the successful negotiations on nuclear disarmament conducted by the United States and the Soviet Union, offered opportunities for co-operation. The Secretary-General had also urged the international community to make fuller use of multilateral institutions.

9. The Council's role should be seen within the context of the principal resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-second session; Member States had reached agreement on a number of complex problems including indebtedness, the environment, Africa, operational activities and the International Development Strategy. In carrying out the tasks that they had undertaken at that session, they should build on the progress made in certain economic and social areas.

10. The immediate issues of trade, finance and macroeconomic policy should be seen in a longer-term perspective. The slow growth of the world economy was being accompanied by important structural changes, whose effects on the development process – positive for some, and negative for others – should be carefully studied. Work on a new international development strategy could help to resuscitate the global effort for development, make current thinking in the field more innovative and at the same time impart greater coherence to the work of the Organization and to the United Nations system as a whole.

11. The issue of external debt was of crucial importance to both the current predicament of many developing countries and their long-term prospects. Although the crisis was still acute in many debtor countries, the climate was more conducive to the consideration of more lasting solutions. That issue would be brought to the attention of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

12. The report of the Advisory Group on Financial Flows to Africa should soon be available. It would emphasize the need for reform and better management in Africa, but the lack of financial contributions, which had hampered recovery, would be underscored. There should be action pursuant to the decisions taken in 1987 to increase flows of resources to that region; other decisions should be taken on the subject of commodities and development of human resources to reinforce and underpin the financial measures for Africa's development.

13. An *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole, recently established by General Assembly resolution 42/163, was to meet in September to review the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.[1] It was a task to which the Secretary-General attached high priority. In this resolution, the Council had been requested to consider at the current session the appropriate contributions to be submitted to that Committee and to make provisions for proper co-ordination of those contributions.

14. As for operational activities for development, resolution 42/196 adopted in that connection by the General Assembly addressed a wide range of specific concerns and basic questions pertaining to the rationale, efficiency, relevance and impact of those activities. Various reports would be submitted to the Council on that subject, but a selective approach should be adopted and a limited number of areas requiring immediate consideration should be identified.

15. The Council had played an important role in the formulation of the system-wide Medium-Term Plan for Women and Development. At its thirty-second session, the Commission on the Status of Women would conduct an in-depth review of measures taken by the United Nations system in that area and would submit it to the Council.

16. As for the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, following the 1987 Conference held at Vienna, he hoped that the Council would give that matter the attention it deserved, because the destabilization of social, economic and political structures that resulted from drugs required an intensified and co-ordinated campaign by the United Nations.

17. The Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields was to report to the Council at its second regular session. The Commission had already highlighted in its discussions the need to clarify and strengthen the role of the Council so as to enable it to carry out effectively its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, particularly in co-ordinating and assisting the General Assembly to provide policy guidelines for the economic and social activities of the United Nations system.

18. Finally, the Council was to consider in the current year the introduction to the next medium-term plan. That new approach to the medium-term planning process involved, in the first instance, extensive consultations with delegations with a view to defining priorities for the work of the Organization, a difficult task given the financial constraints.

19. The Council would deal with a wide range of important topics in the course of the year. At the same time, the Secretariat must support Member States in those deliberations and in the implementation of the various programmes and activities agreed upon by intergovernmental bodies. As part of his efforts to

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[1] General Assembly resolution S-13/2, annex.

strengthen internal co-ordination and complementarity within the Secretariat, he noted that he had recently initiated a more regular pattern of consultations with United Nations senior officials in the economic and social sectors. He also hoped to organize more consultations with delegations.

20. The increasingly heavy demands placed on the Secretariat, particularly with regard to documentation, were a matter of serious concern. The Organization continued to face severe financial constraints, which seriously affected staffing. The most careful use must therefore be made of the human resources available to ensure that they responded to the genuine priorities of Member States. Excessive requests for documentation diluted both the focus of the work and the quality of documentation produced.

21. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should first examine matters under agenda items 2 and 3 so as to enable delegations that wished to do so to make general statements on the subject. He drew the Council's attention, in respect of item 2, to the Secretary-General's note (E/1988/39) concerning the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations convened in accordance with Council resolution 1987/57 and, in connection with item 3, to the Secretary-General's note (E/1988/40) which dealt with the review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. In connection with the latter item, he also recalled that, in its decision 1982/174, the Council had decided to identify at the annual organizational session a subject relating to interregional co-operation, of common interest to all regions, and requested the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to submit their joint recommendations in that regard. The joint recommendation, which would be considered under the heading of regional co-operation during the second regular session of 1988, dealt with interregional co-operation in transit traffic problems.

22. He suggested that the Council should consider, at the last meeting of the session, item 4 concerning elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council, so as to enable the regional groups concerned to complete their consultations.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEMS 2 AND 3

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/1988/39 and Add.1)

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1988 and 1989 (E/1988/1 and Add.1, E/1988/40)

23. Mr. SVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, noted that the Council was meeting at a time when the international situation was especially favourable. Certain new factors had emerged which had beneficial effects on all international relations. He mentioned in particular the conclusion, on 8 December 1987, of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,[2] which marked an important step towards eliminating all categories of weapons. It was important in that connection to pursue those efforts so as to eliminate strategic offensive weapons as well, and hence the threat which faced mankind, and to ensure that the billions of dollars currently devoted to weapons were reallocated to civilian purposes and contributed to the advancement of the developing countries.

24. The General Assembly, at its forty-second session, had assigned an important place to the most acute problems of the world economy and of international relations, thus demonstrating a general awareness of the need to take into account the interests of all parties and the interdependence of problems in all areas. Its discussions had also highlighted the need to make more effective use of the potential and machinery of the United Nations to ensure greater predictability and stability in the world economy.

25. It was hoped that the significant progress already made in promoting mutual understanding would continue, that the Council would be able to improve the favourable climate in its work in order to resolve the main questions on its agenda, and that it would adopt an innovative approach concerning the social and economic activities of the United Nations. Member States should help the Council to participate more actively in seeking a balance between the social and economic interests of the various members of the international community, in view of the growing economic interdependence of the contemporary world, and in eliminating the negative aspects of international economic relations. It could also make a more effective contribution to the development of international co-operation and to the improved co-ordination of social and economic activities throughout the United Nations system.

26. The draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1988 and 1989 (E/1988/1 and Add.1) duly reflected the broadening and universalization of the dialogue concerning world economic problems, in the interest of all States. The socialist countries were actively helping to continue that dialogue, as demonstrated by the inclusion of the questions relating to international economic security.

27. After the adoption of the programme of work, all Member States, together with the Secretariat, should strive to carry it out resolutely, in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the social and economic programmes of the United Nations. Particular attention should be paid to the acute development problems facing the developing countries.

28. At the current session, one of the Council's tasks would be to define the priority questions to be considered at its second regular session. The following criterion should govern that choice: What was the best way for the Council to carry out its two main functions, namely, formulating political recommendations on the problems concerning international co-operation in the social and economic fields, and co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system?

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[2] *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 12: 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.IX.2), appendix VII.

29. In the agenda which it had just adopted for its organizational session and which was contained in document E/1988/2, the Council had given particular attention to General Assembly resolution 42/93 on a comprehensive system of international peace and security, which called upon all States and the appropriate economic forums to use to the maximum extent all opportunities for promoting a stable and equitable world economic environment and, to that end, to strengthen international co-operation for development and to work towards a new international economic order, elaborating the necessary and mutually acceptable measures ensuring economic development and equitable co-operation. The Council should respond to that call and take a decision concerning its contribution to strengthening the appropriate elements of international security.

30. In its resolution 42/163, the General Assembly requested the Council to consider the adoption of the necessary arrangements for the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole whose task was to prepare the review and the appraisal of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.[1] In that connection, a balanced analysis of the situation on the African continent should be carried out, and the Council should encourage all United Nations bodies and agencies to identify the difficulties impeding the implementation of the Programme of Action; that would create a solid basis to enable the international community to step up its efforts to implement the decisions of the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly.

31. As the main United Nations body dealing with social and economic development, the Council should actively encourage the efforts to put to practical use the consensus achieved by the participants in the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, and the consideration of that relationship within the framework of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to be held soon.

32. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking attached great importance to the recommendations adopted by the Bureau of the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations convened in accordance with Council resolution 1987/57, concerning the continuation of consultations aimed at preparing for the resumption of the special session and completing the work in progress.

33. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking had expressed their readiness to contribute actively to strengthening the effectiveness of the Council and all other United Nations bodies and agencies dealing with social and economic questions, in order to solve, in a spirit of co-operation and good will, the complex problems in that field.

34. Mr. GHEZAL (Observer for Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, referred to the recent consultations held within the framework of the enlarged Bureau of the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, which had permitted a very useful exchange of views on some questions. The Group of 77 was very anxious to see the speedy completion of the code of conduct on transnational corporations, because it was an important text whose basic aim was to regulate the activities of those corporations in the developing countries. The States members of the Group of 77 had always shown great flexibility in the negotiations; they hoped that, following the meeting of the enlarged Bureau, their partners from the North would also demonstrate their determination to complete the work begun and would make useful proposals on the questions still pending.

35. In the context of the regained credibility and effectiveness of the Council as a central body for co-ordinating social and economic activities throughout the system, the Group of 77 felt that the Council should consider, as a priority question at its second regular session of 1988, the multilateral response to the structural imbalances in the world economy, particularly in the light of their impact on the development of the developing countries.

36. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) thanked the outgoing President and the other former members of the Bureau for their efforts, and congratulated the new President and members of the Bureau on their election. At a time when the Council was in a period of transition and was seeking to enhance its credibility and effectiveness, it was reassuring to note that its work would be guided by such a competent team. They could fully count on the support of the European Economic Community.

37. Mr. CAHIL (United States of America), recalling that the President had said that it was necessary to avoid sterile discussions, referred to the work of the Working Group of the Special Commission on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, which was progressing in a very encouraging manner. Its members were working in a remarkable spirit of co-operation in order to achieve a very important objective without unnecessary discussion. It was hoped that the Council would follow its example and strive to achieve concrete results.

38. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) said that, in 1988, the Council would have to carry out various important tasks; *inter alia*, it would have to adopt the report on the reform of the economic structures of the United Nations in order to submit it to the General Assembly at its forty-third session; to that end, all parties should co-operate fully and create a favourable climate for negotiations. The Council should also organize its work in a rational manner and give greater attention to the debt problem, the world economic situation, the in-depth study in the economic and social fields, the new international development strategy, and the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.[1] China would continue to work together with the other Member States to ensure the success of the Council's work.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

2nd meeting

Thursday, 4 February 1988, at 11.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.2

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the Bureau (*concluded*)*

1. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should extend the deadline for the submission of draft proposals to 3 p.m. that afternoon, as the Group of African States had requested.

It was so decided.

2. The PRESIDENT said that, after consultations with the Bureau, it had been agreed that the functions of the Vice-Presidents should be distributed as follows in 1988: Mr. Jønck (Denmark) would chair the First (Economic) Committee, Mr. Al-Khussaiby (Oman) would chair the Second (Social) Committee, Mr. Osman (Somalia) would chair the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee and Mr. Pashkevich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) would co-ordinate informal consultations and perform functions as required by the Council. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council agreed with this distribution of functions.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1988 and 1989 (*continued*) (E/1988/1 and Add.1, E/1988/40, E/1988/44, E/1988/L.11, E/1988/L.12)

3. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft decisions E/1988/L.11, entitled "Response of the Economic and Social Council to General Assembly resolution 42/93", and E/1988/L.12, entitled "Contribution of the Economic and Social Council to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/59 D", and noted that both texts had been the subject of thorough consultations.

4. The sponsors of draft decision E/1988/L.11 had deemed it desirable for the Council to respond at its organizational session for 1988 to the appeal made by the General Assembly in paragraph 8 of its resolution 42/93. The draft decision, which reaffirmed the substance of the resolution, was succinct, as the Council's organizational session was too short to permit a fuller treatment of the substance of the subject. The wording of the draft decision ought not to elicit any objections from delegations; although the resolution which had prompted the draft decision had raised major political issues, the provisions to which the proposed text referred had not in themselves presented any substantive difficulties.

5. Draft decision E/1988/L.12 was a response to General Assembly resolution 41/59 D, which invited United Nations organizations to work for disarmament. It was important that those organizations should step up their efforts to that end, as had been recalled at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held in New York from 24 August to 11 September 1987, and that the Council should play its role as a co-ordinator. The Council did not deal with disarmament directly; nevertheless, it was regularly called upon to consider the impact of disarmament when it studied the relationship between that process and development. The draft decision before the Council was justified even further by the fact that the Council was responsible for guiding and co-ordinating the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, which also dealt with the question of the relationships between disarmament and development in the context of its regular programme of work and had in fact participated in the preparations for the International Conference on that subject.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

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* See also, in volume II, the 18th meeting.

3rd meeting

Thursday, 4 February 1988, at 6.05 p.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.3

AGENDA ITEM 3

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1988 and 1989 (*continued*) (E/1988/1 and Add.1, E/1988/40, E/1988/44, E/1988/L.11, E/1988/L.12, E/1988/L.14)

1. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution E/1988/L.14, entitled "Review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990". The Economic and Social Council must fulfil its responsibilities by adopting the draft resolution in order to ensure that all the parties concerned submitted a report on their contributions in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action to the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly.

2. Like all his colleagues from the Group of African States, he was prepared to meet with any members of the Council who wished to hold consultations on the draft resolution or make suggestions for its improvement.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

4th meeting

Friday, 5 February 1988, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.4

AGENDA ITEM 4

Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (E/1988/2, E/1988/3 and Add.1, E/1988/41, E/1988/43, E/1988/L.3, E/1988/L.6, E/1988/L.10)

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretary-General had nominated Ms. Solita C. Monsod (Philippines) and Mr. Udo Ernst Simonis (Federal Republic of Germany) for appointment in their personal capacity as members of the Committee for Development Planning for a term beginning on the date of appointment and ending on 31 December 1989. The relevant biographical information was contained in document E/1988/41.

*Ms. Solita C. Monsod (Philippines) and Mr. Udo Ernst Simonis (Federal Republic of Germany) were elected by acclamation to the Committee for Development Planning for a term beginning on the date of election, and ending on 31 December 1989.**

INTERIM ELECTION TO FILL ONE VACANCY ON THE COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL

2. The PRESIDENT said that, as indicated in document E/1988/43, a vacancy had occurred on the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control owing to the resignation of Mr. Aleksei Y. Kudryavtsev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). The Government of the Soviet Union had submitted the candidature of Mr. Vasily P. Ignatov to serve for the remainder of Mr. Kudryavtsev's term of office. The relevant biographical information was contained in the aforementioned document.

*Mr. Vasily P. Ignatov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was elected by acclamation to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1990.**

3. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to document E/1988/2, which indicated that the Council would be called upon to hold elections, postponed from previous sessions, to the Commission on Human Settlements, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. In that connection, neither the chairmen of the regional groups nor the group of States belonging to the OAU had communicated to the Secretariat the names of any candidates to fill those vacancies. Consequently, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished once again to postpone those elections to a future session.

*It was so decided.**

4. The PRESIDENT drew attention to documents E/1988/3 and E/1988/3/Add.1, which listed, for confirmation by the Council, the names of representatives of the Statistical Commission, the Population Commission, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, that was to say, five out of the six functional commissions which had been received since the close of the organizational session for 1987.

5. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the nominations of the representatives whose names were mentioned in those documents.

*It was so decided.**

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* See decision 1988/106.

AGENDA ITEMS 2, 3 AND 5

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*concluded*) (E/1988/2, E/1988/39)

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1988 and 1989 (*concluded*) (E/1988/1 and Add.1, E/1988/L.40, E/1988/L.44, E/1988/L.11, E/1988/L.12, E/1988/L.14, E/1988/L.15)

Provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1988 and related organizational matters (E/1988/1)

6. The PRESIDENT, speaking on behalf of the members of the Bureau, introduced a working document that had been prepared during informal consultations of the Council and contained several draft decisions. The first draft decision contained a draft provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1988. That document should be considered jointly with the other documents before the Council. He asked the Secretary of the Council to read out the changes that had been made to that document as a result of the most recent consultations.

7. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that only the English version of the revised text was available at the current meeting. The changes would be incorporated in a document entitled "Draft decisions proposed by the President, on behalf of the members of the Bureau of the Council, as a result of informal consultations" which would be issued as soon as possible as document E/1988/L.13.

8. The first change involved deleting from the informal working document paragraph (*d*), regarding the report of the Chairman of the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on his consultations on the code of conduct for transnational corporations, from the footnote on page 2. The second change consisted of deleting the first item, "Opening of the session", from the list of questions for consideration at the second regular session of 1988. The remaining items would thus have to be renumbered from 1 to 20, with "Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters" becoming the first item.

9. The next change involved paragraph 5 (*a*) of draft decision 1, which ought to read: "To give priority consideration at its second regular session of 1988 to the question of the multilateral response to the structural imbalances in the world economy, particularly in the light of their impact on the development of the developing countries". In paragraph 6 of the same draft decision, the seventh line had been revised to read: "... to be taken by the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the basis of the recommendations of the Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields".

10. In section II of draft decision 1, the bracketed phrase "Insert E/1988/1/Add.1 as revised" referred to the Council's decision to postpone consideration of the report on the World Decade for Cultural Development until 1989. In addition, draft decision 3, formerly draft decision 4, contained a change similar to the one made in paragraph 6; consequently, the fifth line should read "... taken by the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the basis of the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields". Finally, draft decisions 5 and 6 would be renumbered as draft decisions 4 and 5, respectively.

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decisions 1 to 5, one at a time. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision 1, "Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 1988 and 1989".

It was so decided (decision 1988/101).

12. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark), referring to draft decision 1, which the Council had just adopted, said that his delegation trusted that the Secretary-General would act with the utmost caution concerning the possibility of sending staff from Headquarters to Geneva to service the Council's second regular session. In particular, as everyone knew, there would not be any introductory statement, or any substantive debate concerning the biennial reports that were to be considered directly by the General Assembly. Even if those reports contained recommendations which required action by the Council, that would hardly justify the expense involved in sending staff from Headquarters to Geneva. At the second regular session, that would apply especially to the report on new and renewable sources of energy.

13. Mr. PAULSEN (Norway), Mr. DAWSON (United States) and Mr. MÜLLER (Australia) endorsed the statement of the representative of Denmark.

14. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 2, entitled "Preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances", and said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision 2.

It was so decided (decision 1988/102).

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 3, entitled "Calendar of conferences and meetings", and said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision 3.

It was so decided (decision 1988/103).

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 4, entitled "Code of conduct on transnational corporations", and said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision 4.

It was so decided (decision 1988/104).

17. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 5, entitled "Inclusion of Mozambique in the list of the least developed countries", and said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision 5.

It was so decided (decision 1988/105).

DRAFT DECISIONS E/1988/L.11 AND E/1988/L.12

18. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to draft decisions E/1988/L.11 and E/1988/L.12, entitled respectively "Response of the Economic and Social Council to General Assembly resolution 42/93" and "Contribution of the Economic and Social Council to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/59 D". In that connection, he pointed out that members of the Council had had consultations on the ques-

tion of the Council's contribution to the implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/93. Based on those consultations, it was the Council's understanding that interested delegations would have an opportunity to refer to those matters during the course of the Council's work in 1988. Accordingly, no decision would be taken on draft decisions E/1988/L.11 and E/1988/L.12.

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1988/L.14

19. The PRESIDENT announced that consultations on draft resolution E/1988/L.14 had concluded and he asked the representative of Somalia to report on the outcome of the consultations.

20. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia) reported that, although consideration of draft resolution E/1988/L.14 had been completed during the informal consultations, as there was no time to issue the revised text, he would explain the various changes.

21. First, the title of the draft had been amended to read, "Arrangements for the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990". A second preambular paragraph had been added. It read as follows:

> "*Having considered* the note by the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development 1986-1990,".

22. A new paragraph had been inserted before paragraph 1. It read as follows:

> "*Takes note with appreciation* of the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General in his note on the review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;".

23. Paragraph 1 of the initial text had become paragraph 2 and had been revised to read as follows:

> "*Requests* the governing bodies of all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to include an item on the review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action ... and to report ..., at the latest by 31 July 1988, on both the outcome of their deliberations on the matter and their contributions in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action since its adoption, to the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole ...;".

24. The former paragraphs 2 and 3 had become paragraphs 3 and 4 and had been revised to read as follows:

> "*Invites* all Governments to communicate in writing to the Secretary-General as soon as possible, at the latest by 31 July 1988, their contributions and information on their efforts in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action since its adoption;
>
> "*Invites* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report on their contributions, particular perspectives and efforts related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to make specific recommendations on further measures that need to be taken, for submission to the *Ad Hoc* Committee."

25. These revisions clarified the text and made it easier to understand. He expressed the hope that the Council would adopt draft resolution E/1988/L.14, as revised, and he thanked the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole for its efforts.

26. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1988/L.14 as orally revised.

It was so decided (resolution 1988/1)

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1988/L.15

27. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the delegations of Iraq and Mauritania had asked permission to introduce a draft resolution (E/1988/L.15) on the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa, even though the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions had passed the previous afternoon. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to consider the draft resolution.

It was so decided.

28. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GAOUTHE (Observer for Mauritania), introducing draft resolution E/1988/L.15 on behalf of his own delegation and that of Iraq, explained that he had been unable to do so earlier because he had only that day received the relevant instructions from his Government. The Minister of Rural Development of Mauritania had just completed an assessment of the damage caused by locust and grasshopper infestation in northern Mauritania. His Government hoped that the Economic and Social Council would adopt the draft resolution in order to remind the international community about the problem which was already on the agenda of the General Assembly under item 12.

29. The first preambular paragraph recalled General Assembly resolution 41/185. In the second preambular paragraph, some delegations had suggested that the words "northern regions of Mauritania" should be replaced by the words "northern regions of Africa".

30. There was no need to remind anyone of the seriousness of the damage caused by locusts and grasshoppers which could devastate 4,000 hectares of land in one night and advance and migrate with extraordinary speed.

31. His delegation hoped that, by adopting the draft resolution, the Council would provide moral support to the efforts currently being made by his Government to combat the infestation. Some members of the international community had already pledged assistance and contributions, among them, the Governments of the United States and France, and also UNDP and FAO.

32. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark) asked whether FAO had any information which might be helpful in taking a decision on the issue. Paragraph 2 of the draft resolution called for a report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988. He would like to know under which agenda item the report would be considered.

33. Mr. SYROGIANIS-CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), replying to the representative of Denmark, said that each month FAO prepared reports containing up-to-date information on the subject, which were distributed to States Members. In the event of a crisis, communications were

sent to all countries, bringing the issue to their attention and requesting their assistance. With regard to the report requested in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, he believed that an oral report on the latest developments and on the assistance planned would be sufficient.

34. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark) agreed with the idea that the information provided by FAO should be presented in an oral report.

35. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana) asked whether the problem affected only Mauritania or also other countries in the region.

36. Mr. SYROGIANIS-CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the latest information showed that the infestation was coming from Algeria and Morocco and that, although other countries in Africa and the Near East were affected, northern Mauritania was particularly hard hit.

37. Mr. SHABAAN (Egypt) said that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was playing a key role in implementating General Assembly resolution 41/185. In response to the question by the representative of Ghana, the FAO report showed that Egypt too had been affected by locust and grasshopper infestation. Without making any specific proposals, he wished to suggest that the draft resolution be broadened to include all the African countries, since many countries, in the Middle East and especially in Africa, had been invaded by that pest.

38. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana) endorsed the proposal by the representative of Egypt.

39. Mr. MULLER (Australia) said that he supported the previous speakers and suggested that paragraph 1 be amended to conclude with the words "grasshopper infestation in Africa". He wished to know exactly how the second preambular paragraph would read with the amendment introduced orally by the representative of Mauritania and pointed out that, in the English version of that paragraph, the words "of many regions" should read "in many regions". He also wished to know whether the paragraph, as revised, would read, after the word "infestation", "in many northern regions of Africa" or "in many regions of northern Africa". The same wording might also be used at the end of the revised version of paragraph 1.

40. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GAOUTHE (Observer for Mauritania) said that his correction involved replacing "Mauritania" by "in many regions of northern Africa", in order to confirm what the representative of FAO had just said in describing the latest developments in the region. As for the suggestion by the representative of Egypt, if that representative insisted on his proposal, he would be glad to accept it if it was presented formally.

41. Mr. PAYTON (New Zealand) paid tribute to the dedication of the representative of Mauritania, who had conducted many studies on the subject. He suggested that the word "fight" should be deleted from the draft resolution so as to moderate its tone.

42. The PRESIDENT suggested that the meeting be suspended in order to complete informal consultations on the draft resolution introduced by Mauritania.

43. Mr. PAULSEN (Norway) suggested that, before the meeting was suspended, the outstanding issues should be identified clearly so that all necessary consultations could be held with a view to taking the relevant decisions when the meeting resumed.

44. Mr. LICHTINGER (Observer for Mexico) recalled that General Assembly resolution 41/185 had invited FAO to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 1987. He would like to know what had happened in the debate on that subject and whether there had been any follow-up to it.

45. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GAOUTHE (Observer for Mauritania) said that, following consultations with the representative of New Zealand, he believed that a consensus had been reached on draft resolution E/1988/L.15.

46. Mr. POPOLIZIO (Peru) said that, since the observer for Mexico had raised some questions about the draft resolution under consideration, it would be inappropriate to take a decision at that time.

The meeting was suspended at 4.45 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.

47. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GAOUTHE (Observer for Mauritania) said that, at the request of the Bureau, consultations had been held with the representative of New Zealand regarding the language used in the draft resolution. The representatives of Egypt and Ghana had not insisted on their proposals and the questions raised by the observer for Mexico and the representative of Peru had been resolved by a change in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

48. The changes made were as follows: in the list of sponsors, the words "Islamic Republic of" had been deleted after "Mauritania"; in the English version of the second preambular paragraph, the word "aggression" had been replaced by "infestation"; in the same paragraph, the words "many northern regions of Mauritania" had been replaced by "many regions of northern Africa". Paragraph 2 had been worded to read:

> "2. *Invites* the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to submit a report to the second regular session of 1988 on the situation regarding the locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa".

49. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia) said that the word "invasion" in paragraph 1 was incorrect and should be replaced by "infestation".

50. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana) asked the observer for Mauritania to read out the second preambular paragraph.

51. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GAOUTHE (Observer for Mauritania) read out the draft resolution in full, as revised.

52. Mr. LICHTINGER (Observer for Mexico) said that he had no objections to the draft resolution, as revised. He hoped that the question would be explored in depth at the regular session of the Council and that guidelines would be approved for dealing with the problem all over the world. He felt that the question should be dealt with at the regular session of the Council and not at the organizational session.

53. Mr. MINTSA-ZUE ONDO (Gabon) proposed to the observer for Mauritania that, in paragraph 1 of the French version, the word "faire" should be replaced by the word "être".

54. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GAOUTHE (Observer for Mauritania) agreed to that proposal.

55. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia) noted that various linguistic points had been elucidated and that the geographical scope of draft resolution E/1988/L.15 had been broadened, so that reference was now made not only to Mauritania, but to the whole of Africa. He urged the Council to adopt the draft resolution without further debate.

56. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1988/L.15, as orally revised.

It was so decided (resolution 1988/2).

57. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that if one reviewed the current organizational session, negative conclusions would be drawn from its results in relation to the time devoted to it. *Inter alia*, the proposals for making the Council's organizational sessions more efficient had not been put into practice with regard, for example, to the length of statements and co-ordination of work. He was pleased with the general support shown for his delegation's proposal on General Assembly resolution 38/32 E on control and limitation of documentation, and he hoped that it would be implemented swiftly. He suggested that the Special Commission on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields should explore the possibility of cutting the organizational session of the Council to two days and that it should start after the holding of prior consultations, for increased effectiveness. While his delegation joined the consensus relating to the draft resolution introduced by Mauritania, he had doubts as to whether an organizational session was a suitable time to submit draft resolutions which did not strictly concern organizational aspects.

58. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia) welcomed the proposals by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. In order to put them into practice, the Bureau for the organizational session would have to be elected immediately after the closure of the previous session. Reviewing the Group of 77's proposals for rationalizing the work of the Economic and Social Council (which included grouping similar items under a single heading and submitting items every two years), he urged the Council to implement them.

59. Mr. SHABAAN (Egypt) expressed his delegation's concern upon receiving the document on the basic programme of work, as it was the President's brainchild and had not been approved by the other members of the Bureau; it was necessary to maintain the traditional co-operation between the President and the other members of the Bureau. He deplored the amount of time wasted on arguments between delegations or groups of delegations, as had happened regarding the items concerning the integration of women in development, and transnational corporations, and he considered that the Special Commission should deal with that type of question. He concluded by thanking the Secretariat for its excellent work.

60. Mr. PAULSEN (Norway) stated that problems had been created because at the current session the Council had had too much time on its hands for the items allocated to it. He proposed that a Bureau should be elected at the end of January for the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council, so that consultations could be held with all those concerned and a programme of work could be put forward. The Bureau would not be submitting any recommendations that had not already been approved informally. The proposal should be examined at the working meetings of the Special Commission.

61. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed with previous speakers that the organizational sessions should be cut to two days and that the Bureau should be elected beforehand so that prior consultations could be held. He also observed that the wording of the item concerning the Council's basic programme of work was incorrect, since at the current session, only the organization, and not the content of the programme had been examined. That point should be borne in mind in preparing the next basic programme of work.

62. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, proposed that the Committee for Development Planning should examine the item suggested by the Group of 77 (1st meeting, para. 35) as a priority item and approved by the Council so that it could be incorporated in the programme of work for its second regular session. That examination would be a useful contribution from the independent experts of recognized competence who made up the Committee, whose conclusions could serve as a basis for the work of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session.

63. Mr. LABERGE (Canada) deplored the amount of time spent on organizational matters, which were so few that the Council had ended up by entering into discussions of substantial and programme matters. Furthermore, owing to the absence of representatives of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, the debate had remained halfway between procedure and substance.

64. He reserved the right to revert to the question at the first or second regular session of the Council, in order to reach a consensus on making drastic cuts in the number of meetings and in the volume of resources allocated to the so-called organizational sessions.

65. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council), addressing the delegation of Tunisia, among others, said that, since the Committee for Development Planning was a subsidiary body of the Council made up of experts, the Council had the authority to request it to carry out the proposed task. The Council's decision, together with the comments expressed, would be brought to the attention of the Committee.

66. The PRESIDENT said that the observations made by some delegations reflected not only a collective examination of conscience concerning the nature of the current organizational session, but also, what was more important, a desire to make changes. Much could be done to simplify the session, which should focus exclusively on the organization of work.

67. Nevertheless, it was sometimes difficult to avoid exchanging views in the discussions and to arrive speedily at a consensus in order to solve problems on which there was disagreement. In any case, an attempt could be made to make better use of the time during the organizational session, perhaps by electing the Bureau and holding consultations before the session.

68. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia) said that, in the light of the statement by the Secretary of the Council, he would like to know whether the Council had

to take a decision so that the Committee for Development Planning might consider the priority item on the Council's programme of work at its second regular session of 1988. That decision could be taken in the remaining minutes of the current meeting.

69. The PRESIDENT said that, if the Council had no objection, he would request the observer for Tunisia to read out the text of a draft decision on the subject.

70. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia) proposed the following text:

> "The Economic and Social Council invites the Committee for Development Planning to consider (or to undertake the consideration of) the item on the proposed agenda for the second regular session of 1988 concerning the multilateral response to the structural imbalances in the world economy, particularly in the light of their impact on the development of the developing countries, and to transmit its conclusions on this question to the Economic and Social Council".

71. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark) said that he did not understand why, after an exchange of views on the best way to simplify the organization of work, a draft decision affecting the programme of work of the Committee for Development Planning was being proposed five minutes before the closure of the session.

72. Although he had no objection to the proposal, he did not know the work plans of the Committee or which documents it had prepared. He was making those comments as a member of the Bureau because he was disturbed that such methods of work were being used.

73. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he supported the statement made by the representative of Denmark and asked the Secretary of the Council what the programme of work of the Committee for Development Planning was for its next session and how it would be affected by the inclusion of the new item.

74. In order to solve the problem, he proposed that the President of the Council should be requested to contact the Committee for Development Planning in order to inform it about the priority item included on the Council's agenda and invite it to express its views, which were always welcome. In that way, the Council would not, at the current stage, have to settle a question which affected the programme of work of the Committee without knowing its working conditions or the type of documentation which it had prepared.

75. Mr. DAWSON (United States of America) said that he generally supported the view expressed by the representative speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community. It was appropriate to inform the Committee for Development Planning about the Council's decisions, particularly concerning the priority item; and the solution proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany was the most suitable.

76. The PRESIDENT asked the Observer for Tunisia if he would accept the proposal made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

77. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia) said that he thought it was an excellent proposal and apologized for having brought up the matter at such a late stage in the session.

78. The PRESIDENT said that, since the proposal by the Federal Republic of Germany was acceptable, the representative of that country would have the task of notifying the Committee for Development Planning informally that that priority item had been included on the Council's agenda and of ascertaining to what extent the Committee could contribute to the discussion of that item.

Closure of the session

79. The PRESIDENT thanked the members of the Council for their work and declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

RECONVENED SESSION

5th meeting

Thursday, 3 March 1988, at 10.40 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.5

AGENDA ITEM 4

Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (*concluded*)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING (E/1988/L.6)

1. The PRESIDENT, referring to a letter dated 23 February 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the President of the Council, said that the Soviet Union was a candidate for membership in the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1990. As would be seen from document E/1988/L.6, three members were to be elected from among the Eastern European States: one for the term of office he had just described, and two others for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1988.

2. As there were no other candidates and if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a member of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

*It was so decided.**

Closure of the reconvened organizational session

3. The PRESIDENT declared the reconvened organizational session closed.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

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*See decision 1988/106.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1988

Summary records of the 6th to 17th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters, New York, from 3 to 27 May 1988

6th meeting

Tuesday, 3 May 1988, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.6

Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the first regular session of 1988 of the Economic and Social Council.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1988/30, E/1988/66, E/1988/L.16/Rev.1, E/1988/L.17/Rev.1)

2. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the annotated provisional agenda (E/1988/30) and, in that connection, to a letter dated 29 April 1988, addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations and distributed as document E/1988/66. He had been informed that some delegations wished to refer the request contained in that document to their respective Governments for instructions. Accordingly, he suggested that no decision on the matter be taken until the next meeting of the Council.

It was so decided.

3. Mr. OTOBO (Observer for Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, recalled that the Group wished to have an additional item concerning the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa included in the Council's agenda.

4. The PRESIDENT replied that there was no need to do so because the matter was a general one and could be taken up under some other item.

5. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) expressed the fear that unless there was a specific agenda item on the question it might be difficult to submit a draft resolution on it.

6. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Council) said that the question could be included in the agenda of the session and then be taken up again, as scheduled, at the second regular session when the report of the Director-General of FAO would be available.

7. The PRESIDENT said that with that understanding, he took it that the Council wished to adopt the agenda contained in document E/1988/30 with the inclusion of the question of locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa under agenda item 1.

The agenda was adopted.

8. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretariat (E/1988/L.16/Rev.1) on the state of preparedness of documentation for the session. He also drew attention to a note by the Bureau (E/1988/L.17/Rev.1) on the organization of the work of the session. In the light of the decision taken earlier, he suggested that the question of economic and social assistance to Afghanistan be considered at the morning meeting on 17 May, after consideration of agenda item 5.

9. Finally, concerning statements in exercise of the right of reply, he said that the Bureau recommended that the Council should follow the procedure established in recent years: statements should be made at the end of the days on which two meetings had been scheduled for consideration of the same item, and delegations should limit their statements at any given meeting to two per item; the first statement should be limited to five minutes, the second to three minutes.

10. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the organization of work as contained in document E/1988/L.17/Rev.1 and orally revised by the President.

It was so decided.

11. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that since the current session would deal primarily with social questions, one aspect of the present disquieting international economic situation should be of great concern. Hard-won social progress was being threat-

ened in many developing countries, because development had been overtaken and even replaced by the adjustment process. It would take time before the effects of that process were felt. Consequently, conditions were worsening rather than improving, unemployment and underemployment were increasing and the social welfare infrastructure was stagnating if not deteriorating in the face of increased demands.

12. The Council had an important role to play in reversing that trend by seeking common agreement on strategies to restore and accelerate the pace of economic and social development. There were, however, some positive elements. One such element was the increased appreciation of the interrelationship of economic and social development issues. More attention was being focused on the complementarity between physical investment for infrastructure and human resource development with great stress on social programmes that enhanced the productive capacity and social welfare of all groups in society. That would require special efforts in the development and adjustment process in order to protect the more vulnerable groups in society and to tap other potential contributions to the development process.

13. A concerted effort was needed to formulate a global and common framework for the development and growth of all countries. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly was to consider further action for assessment of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/56, and the necessary resources for the preparation of the strategy for the fourth decade. The Third International Development Strategy had helped introduce the social dimension of development. Integration of the social dimension in the development strategy should be continued in the fourth international development strategy.

14. There had been some preliminary discussions among the various parts of the United Nations system on a possible new development strategy. A general consensus had emerged concerning the need to give high priority to the development of human resources. A second area of consensus related to the need to ensure that adjustment programmes were given more of a human dimension. In considering the items on its agenda, the Council should make every effort to identify areas of agreement for common action in the context of a comprehensive approach to development.

15. Noting that preparations were under way for the formulation of the next medium-term plan for the Organization, he said that the Secretary-General was to submit to the relevant intergovernmental bodies a draft introduction to the plan which was to include the identification of priority areas of action. It was important that the introduction fully reflect the complementarity of economic and social issues and the interaction between them.

16. One of the areas of greatest potential contribution by the United Nations system was that of the social issues of development. Many organizations of the system had a relative advantage in the social development area and they should exploit that advantage fully. The 1980s had produced many comprehensive and operational plans of action to deal with pressing social issues; those plans must be translated into concrete activities, and possible areas of agreement and common action must be expanded. The medium-term plan could also provide an opportunity for a concerted attack on critical poverty and the consolidation of the emerging agreement with regard to the promotion of human resources. In recent visits to the regional economic commissions, he had been impressed by the seriousness with which the issue of human resources development was being viewed by Member States of those bodies.

17. The situation in Africa posed a specific challenge. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-13/2, represented a mutual commitment by African countries to launch long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic growth and development and by the international community to assist in achieving that objective. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly would undertake an in-depth review and appraisal of the implementation of the programme. Meanwhile the situation in Africa continued to deteriorate despite the efforts of African States and the international community. At its organizational session the Council had adopted provisions regarding substantive preparations for deliberations at the end of the year on the implementation of the Programme of Action; arrangements had yet to be made regarding the actual organization of the deliberations.

18. The severe financial constraints besetting the United Nations required a careful management of resources; all secretariat activities had been greatly affected. He was particularly concerned about the difficulties being faced by the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, also at Vienna; every effort would be made to ensure that the vital programmes of the United Nations were maintained. The requirement for increased effectiveness went beyond the immediate financial situation and related to the long-term viability of the work carried out. The Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields must consider the structure of subsidiary bodies, the length and duration of meetings, and practical measures for improving work such as increased biennialization of agenda items and their clustering and focusing. It was to be hoped that the Special Commission would provide the necessary guidance for the continued restructuring of the Secretariat itself.

19. Given current financial constraints and the long-term effort to streamline Secretariat structures, including a .5 per cent reduction in posts, it was all the more important that all reports required of the Secretariat should respond to a genuine need for supplementary information or analysis and should contribute to the work of the Organization.

20. Miss ANSTEE (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna) said that 1987 had been a year of solid achievement for the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV).

21. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking had been held at Vienna in June 1987; it had been attended by representatives of 138 States and some 200 non-governmental organizations. Its deliberations had focused on substantive issues and had

been characterized by a unity of purpose and absence of political controversy. The major documents, which had been adopted by consensus, consisted of a Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control[1] and a Declaration[1] reflecting the political will and determination of the international community to act in unison in combating the drug problem. The agreement on a balanced approach stressed that it would be wrong to attribute blame to any so-called producer, consumer or transit State. There had been a universal and explicit recognition that the drug problem was international in scope, in origins and consequences, and in the demands it placed on Governments. Millions of lives had been wrecked in all parts of the world, and at all levels of society, and Governments, both local and national, could be undermined by the crime and corruption which accompanied drug trafficking. International security was endangered by the tie between drug trafficking and illegal arms deals, terrorism and subversion, and in some cases the very structure of society was jeopardized. The Conference had recognized that the drug problem could be dealt with only through international co-operation, and that the United Nations offered a unique facility for a concerted attack on the problem. However, the United Nations could not rise to the challenge unless it had the necessary resources.

22. The tenth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in February 1988, had carried forward the work of implementing the findings of the Conference. It had also made encouraging progress in the preparation of the new draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. If the Council endorsed the Commission's recommendation, a review group could be convened in June and the plenipotentiary conference could be held before the end of the year. The prompt adoption of the convention would be a milestone in the international community's fight against illicit drug traffic. As co-ordinator of all United Nations drug-control related activities, however, she was concerned about the impact of current budgetary developments; it would be a tragedy if all the progress achieved in recent years were to founder for lack of resources.

23. The first Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes,[2] the first ministerial-level meeting on the subject in 20 years, had also taken place at Vienna from 7 to 15 September 1987. Although some had feared that the meeting might be controversial and divisive, in the event the discussion had been constructive and a spirit of co-operation had prevailed; an international consensus had emerged on the prevalence of social problems everywhere, cutting across traditional boundaries, and the consequent importance of social issues in national development strategies and in improving the lot of humanity world-wide. The Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, adopted by consensus at the Consultation,[2] and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/125, provided the basis for a global social agenda. In the consultations, social issues had been discussed across-the-board, within a coherent overall framework, and an attempt had been made to weave together the policy strands emerging from previous international events.

24. In March 1988 there had been a very constructive session of the Commission on the Status of Women; with its new, streamlined agenda it had begun the task of implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.[3]

25. Intensive preparations had begun for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. As Secretary-General of the Congress, she was pleased to report that the three interregional meetings held so far had produced tangible policy recommendations even in such sensitive areas as organized crime and international terrorism. In August 1988 the reports of the five meetings would be submitted to the tenth Session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the preparatory body for the Congress.

26. From 17 to 22 August 1987 at Stockholm a meeting of experts was held to review the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons at the mid-point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. In a frank and often critical exchange among experts, many themselves disabled, the need to re-energize the Decade had been strongly emphasized. Several practical steps were being taken; the Secretary-General had recently appointed a special representative, assisted by a small staff, to promote implementation of the measures envisaged in the Decade; financial backing was being provided by non-governmental organizations and no regular budget funds were involved. A special global awareness and fund-raising campaign was also being launched to give added momentum to the Decade.

27. In the field of aging, too, resources were far from commensurate with the requirements of the International Plan of Action on Aging[4] universally agreed to by Governments; through the generosity of the Government of Malta, the International Institute on Aging had been established, and the Secretary-General had personally opened it on 15 April 1988.

28. Over the past year alone, UNOV had prepared over 150 reports for intergovernmental bodies. Nearly all of them had been provided in good time, partly as the result of the simplified procedures that had been introduced following the reorganization of UNOV and the separation of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs from its former parent department, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA). The staff had risen to the challenge and, with fewer resources, had got through a bigger work-load. The extraordinary efforts that had been made could not be sustained indefinitely, however; many programmes were in jeopardy as the reality of further cuts in staff and other resources became more

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[1] See *Report of the International Conference on drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap.I.

[2] For the report of the Consultation, see E/CONF.80/10.

[3] See *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I.

[4] See *Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

imminent. She appealed to Member States to review carefully the pattern and frequency of the reporting they requested and to consider staff resources when requesting new reports. The need for quality must be paramount.

29. The increased activities of UNOV over the past year reflected the growing attention given to social issues at the international level. Mounting evidence of social distress as a consequence of continued economic regression or stagnation, combined with pessimism about early revitalization of the international economy, had led to renewed interest in social processes and policies that might help countries to find a way out of the economic impasse. Frustration with the over-narrow focus of traditional adjustment policies, which bore especially heavily on social programmes, had also elicited a more vigorous search for viable alternatives, as well as for compensatory social measures. There was a renewed interest in priorities, a questioning of the ascendancy of economic objectives, and a wish to restore social objectives at the centre of policy.

30. UNOV recognized the primacy of social objectives but did not belittle the importance of economic growth and economic processes. Long-term economic growth was clearly necessary for improving living standards and for true social progress; increased saving and investment were critically important. An appropriate balance among different investments was also important if growth was to be sustained. Social cost-benefit analysis had established the means for assessing the economic contribution of free social and other public services. The widespread tendency to cut social programmes in times of economic difficulty resulted from anachronistic practices in Government accounting, and the tendency to make a distinction between capital and recurrent costs which did not correspond to the real distinction between investment and consumption. Inevitably a large proportion of social spending went to the salaries of those who provided services which were defined as consumption and were an easy target at the time of cuts. Ministries of finance needed to change their economic thinking.

31. With regard to the controversy over the concept of the gross domestic product she noted that, to economists, the GDP was simply the measure of the total of goods and services produced by an economy in any given year; a change from one year to the next implied nothing about the processes that brought it about. It should be recalled that early in the post-war years, welfare economists had reached a consensus that an increase in GDP that improved the situation of the better-off and worsened that of the less well-off was a change for the worse. Economists had long been aware that economic growth, its distribution, and the extent to which it satisfied social needs was strongly influenced by social forces and social values in the broadest sense. Those were the issues that concerned social scientists, especially sociologists and social anthropologists.

32. Since the issues were sensitive ones and there seemed to be few common denominators for their objective discussion outside a specific cultural framework, it was no wonder that international discussion focused on more neutral topics. Recently, however, there had been major shifts in attitudes. Member States were not only increasingly willing to discuss, in an international setting, issues which had traditionally been considered as mainly domestic; they were actually insisting on doing so. There were several reasons for those changes. First, the significance of certain social phenomena, such as drug trafficking, crime and refugee flows, had increased. Secondly, many social problems, including changing population structures and the need to adapt to economic and technological change, stemmed from the same global phenomena. Thirdly, some social problems had assumed similar characteristics in countries with different social systems and at different levels of development; helping youth integrate into the mainstream of society and redefining the role of the aged could be mentioned under that heading. Fourthly, different societies were being required to respond to similar aspirations of their citizens, as could be seen, *inter alia*, in the strong trend towards defining the basic rights of women.

33. Social issues had a new place in the agenda of the United Nations. The economic and social dimensions had already been successfully integrated into the action programmes adopted by the international community in relation to specific social issues and the needs of specific population groups. The next major task would be to bring together those action programmes in order to forge the separate interests into a more coherent analytical and policy framework.

34. With regard to the limited resources available to the Office at Vienna, she noted that Member States had expressed their desire to accord high priority to social programmes, and that the Secretary-General had therefore decided to establish the Office at Vienna as a nucleus for social policy and social development in the United Nations. The Office at Vienna had shown that it could do "more with less", and was more than ready to go on trying. There was a limit, however, to even the most abnegated human endeavour. It was a sad irony that the new effort was already being placed in jeopardy by the advancing shadow of further reductions in staff. She expressed the fervent hope that the substantive priorities expressed by Governments in countless resolutions would be reflected in the forthcoming decisions of the Council, the Special Commission of the Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN MALAWI

35. Mr. NOEL (Director, Liaison Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), reporting on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/132, said that the total number of victims of armed RENAMO (Mozambique National Resistance) bands had reached 750,000, of whom 450,000 had found refuge in Malawi. The influx of refugees represented up to 50 per cent of the total population in certain regions of Malawi, resulting in a considerable impact on its socio-economic infrastructures. Since January 1987, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had been collaborating with the Joint Operations Committee and the Ministry of Health of Malawi. International assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi was being provided at two levels: emergency assistance co-ordinated by UNHCR, and medium-term and long-term assistance co-ordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Emergency assistance in 1987 had

been provided by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Italian Government. In that year, the various types of assistance had required the mobilization of $US 4,468,290. For 1988, the UNHCR programme would cost an estimated $US 14,681,800.

36. Medium-term and long-term assistance, pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 42/132, had been initiated through the inter-agency mission sent to Malawi by the Secretary-General from 21 October to mid-December 1987, which had visited eight districts in which displaced persons had settled. The report of that mission had been transmitted to Member States and all competent agencies and organs of the United Nations and concerned voluntary agencies.

37. He paid tribute to the Government and people of Malawi for the exemplary way in which they had shown their solidarity with the refugees. It was difficult to express in a short statement the difficulty of the challenges which Malawi was facing in having to share its meagre resources with hundreds of thousands of destitute refugees, in dealing with a severe disorganization of its socio-economic services and in suffering the threat to its national security posed by the incursions of the armed RENAMO bands. He therefore joined in the Secretary-General's appeal to the international community to render all possible assistance to the Malawi Government.

38. Mr. MANGWAZU (Observer for Malawi) said that his Government sincerely appreciated the timely action taken by the Secretary-General in dispatching an inter-agency mission to Malawi to study the situation.

39. He was encouraged to note that the inter-agency mission had reached the same conclusions as it had itself with regard to areas requiring priority attention, including the question of Malawi nationals displaced internally by the influx of refugees and displaced persons and the long-term implications arising from the increasing pressure placed on the arable land in those areas in which the refugees and displaced persons had settled. He expressed the hope that the international community would find the recommended projects deserving of support. The Malawi Government was grateful for the humanitarian and other assistance provided by United Nations bodies and other international organizations, and hoped that they would find it possible to continue with their work.

TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

40. Mr. BAKER (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation), reporting on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/54, said that all new and amended recommendations approved by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods at its fourteenth session had been incorporated into the existing recommendations, and a revised version had been published in English and French. Steps taken by the Secretariat to encourage the participation of developing countries and other non-member countries in the Committee's work had resulted in the participation, with observer status, of experts from China, Denmark, Finland and Spain, at the twenty-seventh session of the Group of Experts on Explosives, and of experts from Australia, Finland and Switzerland at the recent sessions of the Group of Rapporteurs. An application had been received from the Government of China to participate in the Committee as a full member, and there had been an exchange of letters with the Government of India concerning its possible participation in the work of the Committee.

41. In response to the requests of the Council, the Secretary-General had made available, within existing resources, the funding and staff necessary for the adequate servicing of the Committee of Experts.

42. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany), supported by Mr. JONCK (Denmark) and Mr. QUINCY (France) requested more information concerning the additional personnel requested for the servicing of the Committee of Experts.

43. Mr. BAKER (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that he would need some time to check on that information.

44. The PRESIDENT said that the consideration of the item would not be deemed to be completed until the information was received.

45. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) expressed the hope that China's application for membership in the Committee of Experts would be approved by the Council.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

7th meeting

Monday, 9 May 1988, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.7

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters *(continued)* (E/1988/30; E/1988/66; E/1988/83; E/1988/84)

LETTERS FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (E/1988/66 and E/1988/84)

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that at its previous meeting the Council had decided to postpone consideration of the request contained in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan (E/1988/66).

2. In that connection, he drew attention to a letter dated 5 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1988/84).

3. After consulting several delegations particularly concerned by the matter, it was his understanding that there was general agreement that consideration of the request should be further postponed. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to follow that course of action.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (E/1988/83)

4. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council approved the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, contained in its report (E/1988/83), concerning requests by non-governmental organizations to be heard in connection with agenda items 10, 11, 12 and 13, which were referred to the Second (Social) Committee.

It was so decided.

TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

5. Mr. BAKER (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation), responding to questions raised at the preceding meeting concerning staffing arrangements for the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, said that a replacement for the Secretary of the Committee had been found and was expected to assume his duties in the near future. In addition, given the importance which Governments attached to the Committee's work, both a junior-level and a senior-level Professional would be deployed to assist in the servicing of the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1988/8, E/1988/9 and Add.1, E/1988/10)

AGENDA ITEM 3

International Covenants on Human Rights (E/1988/5, E/1988/6, E/1988/7, E/1988/49, E/1988/L.18, E/1988/NGO/1, E/1988/NGO/2, E/1988/NGO/3)

(*a*) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (E/1988/49)

(*b*) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1988/5, E/1988/6, E/1988/7, E/1988/L.18, E/1988/NGO/1, E/1988/NGO/2, E/1988/NGO/3)

6. Mr. MARTENSON (Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights), outlining the priorities which he envisaged for the human rights programme, said that the centre-piece of activities for the current year would be the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[5] Several international and regional meetings, workshops and seminars were being devoted to the theme of the Declaration and its continuing relevance for all peoples, numerous anniversary publications were being produced and various special events were being organized.

7. Extending and broadening the outreach of the United Nations human rights programme was one of his priorities; accordingly, in the context of restructuring the Centre for Human Rights, he had established a new Section for External Relations, which would enhance co-operation with the wider human rights community—the academic world, foundations and research institutions, the concerned media and non-governmental organizations—whose role was crucial to the success of the human rights programme. The new Section would also help to enhance public understanding and knowledge of human rights through an increased programme of publications and through other informational and educational activities.

8. Information and education must constitute an intrinsic part of human rights endeavours. Accordingly, Centre personnel were working closely with the Department of Public Information to enhance public awareness of fundamental rights and freedoms. To that end, following the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution 42/118, the Secretary-General was also

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[5] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

preparing a report on the feasibility and modalities of a world-wide human rights campaign, to be considered by the Assembly at its forty-third session.

9. A second focus of the Centre's restructuring efforts was the provision of advisory services and technical assistance to Governments which were striving to meet the human rights aspirations of their citizens. In the final analysis, strong national systems were the true bulwark against human rights violations. In that spirit, he had taken steps to strengthen the relevant section within the Centre for Human Rights. At the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, a detailed outline of activities had been presented, encompassing provision of expert advice, fellowships, training courses and seminars. The response had been gratifying and all regions had expressed support. A training course for national officials in the administration of justice, which he considered to be a blueprint for the future, had already been held in 1988 at Lomé (Togo) and numerous other such courses were being organized in all regions. Another encouraging development was the establishment of a voluntary fund to which numerous contributions had been pledged during the Commission's discussion of advisory services.

10. Human rights endeavours were organized around the three poles of legislation, implementation and information. Although the legislative process had scored outstanding achievements since the adoption on 16 December 1966 of the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] the emphasis must lie increasingly upon implementation, whether internationally or at the national level. Ultimately, the success of the international human rights programme might well depend upon the provision of information and education.

11. The International Covenants were in the front ranks of the international machinery available to implement the Universal Declaration. Unfortunately, only one State, Equatorial Guinea, had acceded to the two Covenants in the past year, bringing the total number of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[6] and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] to 87 and 91, respectively. Three States—Equatorial Guinea, Austria and Togo—had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[6] in the past year, raising the number of States parties to 41.

12. It was equally important to ensure that the implementation of the provisions of the two Covenants was effectively monitored. In that regard, he was pleased to report that the sessions of the Human Rights Committee, which had been disrupted during 1986 because of the financial crisis, had now resumed a regular pattern. Experience had shown that the Committee's schedule of three sessions per year must be adhered to if it was to discharge its mandate properly.

13. Regrettably, the problem of overdue reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been exacerbated during the past year; the total number of such reports had increased from 47 to 52. A number of States parties had submitted neither their initial nor their second periodic reports; in some cases, third periodic reports would also be due in 1988.

14. Given that situation, the Human Rights Committee had shown keen interest in the meeting scheduled for October 1988 of persons chairing the supervisory bodies for the implementation of human rights treaties, and had begun to develop recommendations for presentation at that meeting.

15. With regard to general comments under article 40, paragraph 4, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the most recent general comment of the Human Rights Committee relating to article 17 of the Covenant had been circulated to the Council at its current session (E/1988/49, annex).

16. The Committee had continued to be very active in dealing with individual complaints submitted under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant. In all some 300 communications had been received, 83 of which had resulted in the issuance of final views.

17. Recalling that in 1988 the Council would consider a second substantive report from the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1988/L.18[7]) on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[6] he said that the Council's responsibilities under articles 16 to 23 of the Covenant extended well beyond a monitoring function. They included such other major tasks as providing information to the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned with matters arising out of reports of States parties; furnishing technical assistance; and arranging for regional and technical consultative meetings. The recommendation contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/80, concerning the proclamation of an International Literacy Year, had been a significant recent example of the Council's broader role in promoting international action. Active pursuit by the Council of those broad responsibilities would be vital for the effective implementation of the Covenant. During its second session, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had had before it, for the first time, written statements submitted by a number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council. It had also focused on reviewing its methods of work and developing general guidelines for the preparation of reports pursuant to articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant. Five of its recommendations, contained in paragraphs 351, 354, 356, 361 and 373 of its report (*ibid.*), required specific authorization by the Council.

18. Other activities currently under way or planned, in addition to efforts directly related to the Covenant, included the study by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the right to food; preparation of a report on the right to property; examination by the Sub-Commission of ways in which scientific and technological developments could advance the realization of economic and social rights; consideration of the implementation of the right of development by the Commission on Human Rights and its Working Group, and consideration of extending regional protection of economic, social and cultural rights by the Organization of American States and by the Council of Europe.

19. The prevention of discrimination was synonymous with the affirmation of universal human rights. Few

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[6] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[7] Preliminary version; the definitive version was issued later as E/1988/14-E/C.12/1988/4.

forms of discrimination were as blatant and repellent as that based merely on race and colour. In societies where racism was not checked, it marginalized large sections of the population, creating intolerable tension. Any toleration of racism by the international community threatened the peace and human rights of all people. Despite the many international conventions and declarations which had been adopted with a view to eliminating racism and discrimination, the problem persisted. In 1983, the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had been proclaimed. Its basic objectives were to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, to eliminate prejudice and racial discrimination and to abolish régimes and policies based on racism.

20. The General Assembly had approved a broad programme of activities, supplemented by detailed plans of activities for the periods 1985-1989[8] and 1990-1993.[9] The elimination of *apartheid*, one of the prime objectives of the Second Decade, was particularly important, since the use of laws and of the judicial system in South Africa to impose and maintain *apartheid* was entirely at odds with the generally acknowledged principle that constitutions, laws and courts were the main social institutions guaranteeing respect for human rights and equality. The continued existence of *apartheid* undermined the achievements of all other societies and made it impossible to preclude the establishment of similar systems elsewhere.

21. Much of the responsibility for implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] lay with the United Nations organs. The specialized agencies, particularly UNESCO and ILO, continued to make highly significant contributions in their respective fields, as did non-governmental organizations at international level. Successful implementation called, however, for effective co-ordination, a task to which he himself was deeply committed. As Co-ordinator of the Second Decade, he had established close contacts with the various offices of the United Nations, for example, with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Centre against *Apartheid*, and had held meetings with non-governmental organizations and with representatives of the media.

22. In view of the importance of strengthening contacts and co-operation with the non-governmental organizations, he had met with the Sub-Committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, *Apartheid* and Decolonization of the Special Non-Governmental Committee on Human Rights to discuss the Second Decade and to exchange views on the forthcoming non-governmental organization conference designed to mobilize activities in support of the Second Decade. With regard to the media, efforts were being made to publicize the role of the United Nations in the fight against racism and to mobilize public support for the objectives of the Second Decade. Public commemorative meetings had also helped to give prominence to the activities of the Second Decade. For example, a round-table discussion had been organized in Geneva in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and a meeting was planned to mark the occasion of the Week of Solidarity with the People of Namibia and its Liberation Movement, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

23. The general work programme of the Centre for Human Rights would give due emphasis to relevant issues, in particular in connection with the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The anniversary provided a unique opportunity to promote the widest public awareness of international efforts to further respect for human rights and to eliminate discrimination.

24. The promotion of human rights and the elimination of racism and racial discrimination were equally important when it came to preserving world peace and improving living standards throughout the world. Racial discrimination gave rise not only to internal tension, but also to conflicts between States, which were liable to escalate and threaten international security. Conversely, inter-State conflicts could exacerbate racial tensions and foster enmity between peoples.

25. Racism also hindered full implementation of technical and development programmes. Thus each programme had an important contribution to make to the elimination of racism. It was important, therefore, that as broad a range as possible of United Nations bodies should be involved in the fight against racism, particularly in connection with the Second Decade. The effect of individual efforts could be multiplied if there were better substantive contact between the various bodies concerned. Accordingly, he had discussed implementation of the Programme of Action with the executive heads of the specialized agencies at the last session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. He had suggested reinforcing each agency's own programme and improving inter-agency co-ordination. He hoped that the Committee would keep the matter under review and develop suitable means of improving co-operation.

26. The major event of the current year was the global consultation on racial discrimination, which would be held at Geneva from 3 to 6 October and focus on the co-ordination of activities to combat racial discrimination. It would involve the participation of representatives of the United Nations system, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

27. He drew attention to two documents, E/1988/8 and E/1988/9 and Add.1, which would serve as a basis for the Council's general co-ordinating functions in connection with the Second Decade. Although the documents indicated the breadth and variety of the activities in question, there were still areas in which projects could be initiated or reinforced. The Council had a crucial role to play in assessing such activities and in making recommendations and suggestions to the General Assembly.

28. It should also give close consideration to the results of the most recent session of the Commission on Human Rights. Among other things, the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to consider holding a seminar on the "political, historical, economic, social and cultural factors contributing to racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*", the topic for thematic consideration for 1989 and had recommended that the

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[8] See E/1984/33-A/39/167 and Add.1 and 2.

[9] General Assembly resolution 42/47, annex.

[10] General Assembly resolution 38/14, annex.

Council should request the Secretary-General to organize a seminar on the effects of racism and racial discrimination on social and economic relations between indigenous peoples and States. Furthermore, the General Assembly had asked the Council to consider holding a seminar of cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers. If the Council took decisions on these three seminars, the Secretary-General would be able to proceed with the necessary arrangements.

29. He drew attention to the report on the training course for legislative draftsmen (E/1988/10), emphasizing that facilitating the adoption of national legislation and recourse procedures against racism, and encouraging the establishment of national institutions to promote racial harmony and to combat discrimination, were important objectives in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. A compendium of national anti-racism legislation was being prepared for submission to the General Assembly, and the drafting of model legislation and the production of a handbook for legislative draftsmen were also being considered.

30. Lastly, he commented that the distribution of so many reports to so many bodies led to duplication and prevented any one part of the system from having a complete overview of the situation, making co-ordination very difficult. A streamlined, rationalized reporting procedure would not only increase the effectiveness of each individual organ and of the United Nations as a whole, but also ensure that each received relevant information. An overall picture could then be had of all activities in the field.

31. Mr. REINBOTHE (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, said that recognizing that racial discrimination existed to some extent in every society was the necessary first step towards solving the problem. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was evidence of the international community's determination to rid the world of those phenomena. The States members of the European Community believed that only multilateral efforts would be successful and therefore considered it important that common positions and concrete proposals for the Second Decade should be elaborated in a spirit of compromise.

32. The States members of the European Community welcomed the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (E/1988/9 and Add.1).[11] It was unfortunate, however, that the late appearance of that document might hamper the Council in ensuring the co-ordination of activities. They nevertheless expressed satisfaction that emphasis continued to be placed on education and training as well as on legislative and administrative measures to combat racial discrimination. The training course on the preparation of national legislation, held in September 1987, had been particularly useful because it had demonstrated, as set forth in the report on the subject (E/1988/10), how the United Nations could translate broad mandates into concrete projects that had a positive impact on people's lives.

33. Although the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had done much useful work, that work should be rationalized by extending the two-year cycle for periodic reports, as had been proposed. The financial difficulties facing the Committee were even more critical; punctual payment of contributions by all States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[12] remained essential in that regard, and all States parties that were in arrears were urged to meet their commitments without delay.

34. Only one State – South Africa – had institutionalized racial discrimination. The States members of the European Community were concerned at the current deterioration of the situation in South Africa and appealed for an end to violence, from any quarter, that had its origins in the policy of *apartheid* and the repressive measures used to enforce it.

35. The abolition of *apartheid* through peaceful change was possible only through broad-based negotiations, involving the genuine representatives of all groups of the population. Efforts to bring the communities closer together must be continued. The States members of the European Community vigorously condemned the South African Government's efforts to prohibit South African organizations peacefully opposed to *apartheid* from engaging in political activities. The Government should repeal those measures without delay and withdraw recent draft legislation, whose adoption was being contemplated, prohibiting foreign assistance to victims of *apartheid*.

36. Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the complete elimination of *apartheid* was the most urgent task facing the United Nations. *Apartheid* undermined peace and stability in Africa and was a serious threat to world peace. In its feverish attempt to save the doomed *apartheid* system, the Pretoria régime was continuing its acts of massive repression. In the past two years, at least 2,000 young people, including children from 10 to 15 years of age, had been murdered by agents of the South African police, army and special service. Forty young patriots were currently awaiting execution, and the lives of the Sharpeville Six remained in jeopardy. Despite the persistent protests of world public opinion and of the United Nations, Nelson Mandela had remained behind bars for 26 years now, and the same fate awaited hundreds of other political prisoners and opponents of *apartheid*.

37. The barbarity of the racists was not limited to South Africa. Cynically ignoring United Nations resolutions and decisions on the subject, the Pretoria régime continued its colonial exploitation of Namibia's people and natural resources, and used that territory to perpetrate acts of aggression and to interfere in the sovereign affairs of neighbouring African States. Perhaps such shameful practices continued because exploitation of the African population and the rich mineral resources of South Africa and Namibia provided monopolies with huge profits.

38. The Byelorussian SSR unswervingly supported the just cause of the Namibian patriots under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and of the South African patriots who be-

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[11] Another addendum (E/1988/9/Add.2) to the report was issued on 27 September 1988.

[12] General Assembly resolution 2106 (XX), annex.

longed to the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC). The Byelorussian SSR provided political, economic and other forms of aid and support to national liberation movements.

39. In the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] in the second half of the Decade, the United Nations and the international community should introduce mandatory economic sanctions against the Pretoria régime, continue to compile lists of transnational corporations operating in South Africa and deal with such organizations as accessories to the crime of *apartheid*. The complete and immediate elimination of the *apartheid* system, the immediate release of all political prisoners, the termination of all forms of support for the Pretoria régime, including the abandonment of certain illusions regarding the "democratization" of *apartheid* through "constructive engagement", and the universal implementation of international agreements on the struggle against racism continued to be the principal stages in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

40. Racism and racial discrimination took diverse forms. The current Palestinian demonstrations against Israel's occupation of Arab lands once again revealed the dangerous delusions of those who put their trust in arms and terror, counted on the submissiveness of an entire people and refused to give serious consideration to ways of solving the situation in the Middle East. Israel must halt its policies of racism, aggression and international terrorism. The convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, with the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, could contribute to peace and security for all peoples of the region.

41. The Byelorussian SSR supported and participated in the activities of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The submission of reports on action taken under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade was an important way of implementing the humanitarian objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, and the Byelorussian SSR called upon all Member States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in that regard.

42. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that his country not only had been one of the first to sign and ratify the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] but was also a party to 16 other international human rights instruments and implemented the basic provisions of many other human rights instruments to which it was not a party. Moreover, many Egyptian experts played an active role on bodies that monitored the implementation of such instruments.

43. He drew attention to various articles of the 1971 Egyptian Constitution which guaranteed economic, social and cultural rights such as the right to work, the right to cultural, social and health services, the right to education and the right to private as well as public ownership of property. Civil and political rights were also afforded broad protection under the Egyptian Constitution: all Egyptians enjoyed equal public rights and duties without discrimination, freedom of belief and the practice of religious rights, freedom of expression and freedom to form trade unions and political parties.

44. His delegation appealed to the international community through the Council and the General Assembly to make greater efforts to ensure that the Palestinian people enjoyed its basic human rights, particularly the right to life and the right to security and safety. His delegation was convinced that the oppressive occupation of South Africa and Namibia would not last for ever and that the South African and Namibian peoples would ultimately achieve their legitimate aspirations and enjoy their rights to live in freedom, peace and dignity.

45. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] the International Covenants on Human Rights[6] comprised the unique and universal basis for international co-operation for the defence and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world. If all States recognized, acceded to and implemented the Covenants, those instruments could serve not only as the basis for civilized international relations but also for evaluating countries' progress in enacting legislation on the protection of human rights.

46. The ability of States to make an objective assessment of their own practices in the implementation of the entire range of human rights and fundamental freedoms was of great importance. The Soviet Union constantly endeavoured to bring its domestic legislation into line with the provisions of the Covenants and other democratic human rights standards. The further strengthening of legal guarantees of the rights of the individual and the creation of conditions which would exclude any infringement of social rights were the principal objectives of the processes of democratization and *glasnost* currently under way in the Soviet Union. The principal tasks of *perestroika*, the decisive condition for the renewal of socialism, included the complete liberation of the human person, the development of social initiative and the inclusion of all citizens in the management of public affairs.

47. The processes of democratization and *glasnost* affected the entire political system, public organizations and the economy. In every industrial enterprise, workers must feel that they were the true owners, and that they were entitled to elect their own leaders right up to the director of the enterprise and to decide on such important issues as planning and the distribution of profits. The law on individual labour activities gave millions of Soviet citizens the opportunity to take commercial initiatives in the service sector and to participate more actively in developing the country's economy.

48. The USSR was preparing a reform of its penal legislation which would, in particular, lighten sentences and limit capital punishment. Measures had been taken to improve psychiatric services. In January 1988, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR had ratified a statute which laid down conditions and procedures for rendering psychiatric assistance to the mentally disturbed. The statute provided legal guarantees against possible errors and abuses, and included the principle of criminal liability for placing persons known to be sane in psychiatric hospitals. The statute guaranteed citizens the right to recourse to the courts and legal assistance.

49. On 1 January 1987, new rules on entry into and departure from the USSR had gone into effect. The rules specified the grounds for departure from the Soviet Union for permanent residence abroad as well as for temporary personal travel to foreign countries. In June 1987, regulations on the people who could invite Soviet citizens to visit them abroad had been relaxed, and certain obstacles to travel had been removed.

50. The Covenants could serve as the basis for fruitful dialogue and the exchange of experience among various countries in the field of human rights. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were ideal forums for such activities. In addition to the States parties to the Covenants, countries which had not yet ratified the Covenants could contribute to the work of the two Committees by submitting, on a voluntary basis, reports or information on national legislation for the protection of human rights.

51. There were no ideal situations or countries which could serve as models for the observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Improvements could be made in all countries, and a sincere interest in removing imperfections and making improvements could open the way to a productive bilateral and international dialogue on the best way to ensure the universal observance of human rights. Such an approach to human rights and the international Covenants must reflect a new political thinking which took into account the interests of all countries and of all humanity, united by a common concern for increased security and a common hope for survival in the nuclear and space age.

52. Mr. BOLOT (France) noted that, in 1989, his country would celebrate the bicentennial of the French revolution and the proclamation of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen in the same spirit that it implemented the International Covenants on Human Rights.[6] While the ways in which civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights were guaranteed might vary, all must be respected equally.

53. During the past 200 years, new rights had gradually been added to those already recognized; his delegation considered that evolution to be entirely normal and had played an active part in the work done by the United Nations in defining the right to development. It considered that, in addition to its material aspects, development referred to an amalgam of economic growth, social progress and respect for and development of the human person. Development implied the active participation of man, individually and collectively. Subsequent exchanges of views on that subject should focus more on the spirit than on the letter of the Declaration on the Right to Development.[13] Future work should open the way to consensus, which was required for any subsequent codification.

54. France had recently submitted its second periodic report to the Human Rights Committee, which considered it at its thirty-second session, and had appreciated the positive comments made on it by Committee members. The dialogue which took place between States parties and committees such as the Human Rights Committee in fact facilitated the assimilation by national legal systems of the spirit and the actual provisions of the Covenants. France, for example, had modified its legislation in several areas in order to make it consistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;[6] it had also withdrawn its reservation to article 19. Moreover, an increasing number of court decisions at all levels in France contained references to the Covenant.

55. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was of equal importance to the French Government. In that connection, he welcomed the participation of experts in the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the rationalization of the Committee's working methods. He supported extending the periodicity of reports by States parties to five years and welcomed the proposal to have Committee members discuss one article of the Covenant at each session in order to consider problems relating to a specific right in greater depth. Efforts to disseminate the work of the Committee to States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations should also be continued. While the periodic reporting process was somewhat burdensome, it was an indispensable mechanism for promoting dialogue which, in turn, led to the further development of all human rights.

56. Noting that 1988 marked the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] he suggested that the United Nations should take stock of the progress it had achieved in the area of human rights, both to celebrate what had been achieved and to determine what remained to be done so that the principles of the Declaration might be applied everywhere.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

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[13] General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

8th meeting

Tuesday, 10 May 1988, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.8

AGENDA ITEM 3

International Covenants on Human Rights (*continued*) (E/1988/5, E/1988/6, E/1988/7, E/1988/49, E/1988/L.18, E/1988/NGO/1, E/1988/NGO/2, E/1988/NGO/3)

(*a*) **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*continued*) (E/1988/49)**

(*b*) **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*) (E/1988/5, E/1988/6, E/1988/7, E/1988/L.18, E/1988/NGO/1, E/1988/NGO/2, E/1988/NGO/3)**

1. Ms. LAFORTUNE (Canada) said that the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[5] provided an opportunity to reflect on the problems which had beset the various bodies established under international human rights instruments to monitor compliance of States parties. The financial crisis in the United Nations had had a negative effect on those monitoring bodies, which had been obliged to curtail meetings, cancel sessions and limit the time available to deal with important issues and reports. Her delegation wholeheartedly supported the holding of a second meeting of the chairmen of the supervisory bodies for the implementation of human rights treaties, which was scheduled for the autumn.

2. The Economic and Social Council would soon examine the question of the periodicity of reporting under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the results of that examination could be of use to other United Nations committees. Canada would encourage other States to consider initiating consultations at the national level, drawing upon resources and expertise available in universities and non-governmental organizations, in order to help develop innovative concepts to address the serious problems facing human rights supervisory bodies.

3. Mr. HOPPE (Denmark), speaking on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, said that many international problems had been caused by the failure of States to recognize the dignity and worth of the human person. All human rights—both civil and political and social, economic and cultural—must be respected and promoted as essential elements of a comprehensive system for the protection of the individual.

4. Efforts by the United Nations to promote and protect human rights did not constitute interference in the internal affairs of States. In the view of the Nordic countries, States must accept the fact that human rights violations were a legitimate concern of the United Nations—and a necessary one if the Organization was to fulfil its purposes and maintain its credibility.

5. Because of austerity measures, the Human Rights Committee had been obliged to cancel its autumn 1988 session, which had further delayed its work. Every effort should be made to avoid further cancellations.

6. A considerable number of States parties were not fulfilling their reporting obligations, and the delay in reporting and the non-submission of reports were beginning to jeopardize the authority of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[6] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[6] The Nordic countries therefore urged the States in question to fulfil their obligations as soon as possible. In that connection, the Nordic countries were looking forward to the results of the second meeting of chairmen of the supervisory bodies.

7. The Human Rights Committee had submitted to the Council its general comments on article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (E/1988/49, annex) and the Nordic countries hoped that all States would heed the opinions of that Committee. Governments must co-operate closely with the Committee in cases when a state of emergency had been declared, and make all relevant information available to it.

8. The question of a second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, dealing with the abolition of the death penalty, deserved serious and urgent consideration. A number of countries had declared that they were unable to abolish the death penalty within their own jurisdictions but that should not prevent the efforts of others to promote an optional instrument which would enable them to adhere formally to an international legal instrument abolishing the death penalty.

9. The Nordic countries commended the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1988/L.18).[7] The work of the Committee was directly related to the overall activities of the United Nations in the economic, social and cultural sectors.

10. Mr. GORAJEWSKI (Poland) said that adherence to the International Covenants on Human Rights had become a yardstick by which to measure the commitment of an individual Government to the promotion of human rights at home.

11. His delegation commended the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for devoting so much time to rationalizing its methods of work and bringing reporting procedures under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights into line with those under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Poland endorsed the Committee's recommendations (E/1988/L.18,[7] paras. 351-374) and supported its request for additional meetings or an additional session in order to eliminate its backlog of work.

12. Mr. BUZO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the Byelorussian SSR was a party to both International Covenants on Human Rights[6] and regularly submitted reports to the two Committees established to monitor compliance with the Covenants of States parties. Those Committees were important because exchanges of views had a positive effect on na-

tional legislation and practice and on the development of international humanitarian co-operation and mutual understanding among peoples. His delegation had supported proposals to improve the working methods of those bodies and to adjust the requirements for the submission of reports.

13. In 1988, the Byelorussian SSR was celebrating its seventieth anniversary. Although the socialist way of life had given workers real political, economic and social rights and freedoms, the Byelorussian SSR did not consider that its achievements in the field of human rights left no room for improvement. In carrying out *perestroika*, the Byelorussian SSR adhered to the principle that only the consistent development of a democratic social structure and the broadening of self-management could result in advances in all spheres of State and public life.

14. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that many States parties to the two Covenants had found their reporting obligations under the human rights Covenants to be a heavy burden. In that regard, the increased use of the advisory service and technical assistance programmes could enable States parties to comply more satisfactorily with their reporting obligations. In particular, his delegation welcomed the amendment to the reporting programme recommended by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its report (*ibid*., para. 351). Japan also welcomed its suggestion that the United Nations Development Programme attend the Committee's sessions (*ibid*., para. 363).

15. His delegation supported the recommendation concerning the establishment of a pre-sessional working group (*ibid*., para. 361). On the other hand, it was reluctant to accept the Committee's request (*ibid*., para. 356) for additional meetings or an additional session in order to eliminate the backlog of reports. The forthcoming meeting of the chairmen of the supervisory bodies for the implementation of human rights treaties might have some useful suggestions to make on that score.

16. Mr. STUART (Australia) supported the call made by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany on behalf of the European Community (7th meeting, para. 33) for States parties to meet fully their financial obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[12]

17. He welcomed the response of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the Council's request that it should give further consideration to recommendations concerning its future activities. Referring to the Committee's report on its second session (E/1988/L.18[7]), he commended the recommendations contained in paragraphs 351, 352 and 364. Noteworthy also were the suggested procedures for obtaining supplementary information.

18. Welcoming the Committee's recommendation that general comments should be prepared to help the States parties meet their reporting obligations, he said that the Committee could also consider identifying bench-marks to measure achievements, and pay special attention to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

19. In view of the current financial situation, the Committee should test out suggestions for expediting its operations before the Council endorsed any request for additional meetings.

20. He supported the recommendations concerning the exchange of information with other international governmental organizations, such as the Centre for Human Rights, and welcomed, in particular, the participation of the International Labour Organisation. Other international organizations could participate more widely, while non-governmental organizations had an important part to play in ensuring that economic, social and cultural rights received effective consideration at the international level. The latter should also be permitted to submit written material on a regular basis. The Australian delegation was hopeful that the second meeting of the chairmen of the supervisory bodies would give impetus to the attempts being made to improve the operation of reporting systems. In view of its unique position with regard to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Council had a special responsibility to address such problems in the Committee.

21. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) said that, in spite of commendable achievements during the 40 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] Member States should intensify their efforts with regard to the promotion of human rights.

22. In recent years there had been no appreciable increase in the number of States parties to the two major human rights covenants. He joined the Under-Secretary-General in urging other States to ratify those instruments.

23. His delegation supported the general comments of the Human Rights Committee with regard to arbitrary or unlawful interference (see E/1988/49, annex) which would be taken into account in the Philippines' initial report on implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[6]

24. Referring to the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1988/L.18[7]), he said that due consideration should be given to the need for progressive realization of those rights, taking account of the difficult economic conditions of developing countries. He agreed that recommendations should be made in connection with international co-operation and technical assistance in accordance with articles 22 and 23 of the Covenant.

25. He supported the recommendation in paragraph 351 of the report (*ibid*.) that the Council should seek to amend the reporting programme it had previously adopted to provide for five-yearly intervals thereafter, and stressed the need to continue to help States parties meet their reporting obligations. He also welcomed the Committee's decision to prepare general comments with that in view. Lastly, his delegation endorsed the recommendation to establish a pre-sessional working group to identify appropriate subjects of discussion in advance.

26. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria) said that both in international relations, in general, and within the United Nations itself, there was a growing need for a new approach to problem-solving. As far as human rights were concerned, more and more countries were becoming aware that it was time to relinquish the "bunker" mentality and the pursuit of easy propaganda victories. The achievement of respect for human rights was a major and integral part of world peace and security.

27. Expectations should not be too high with regard to the meeting of the chairmen of the supervisory bodies for the implementation of human rights treaties, since the participants would represent only themselves and could make only general suggestions of a technical nature. He hoped that the Chairman of the Group of Three of the Commission on Human Rights, established by the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*[14] would be invited.

28. Greater co-operation in connection with the International Covenants on Human Rights[6] called for ratification of those instruments by more States, strict fulfilment of all obligations, reaction to mass violations of human rights by certain States parties, and the withdrawal of reservations made by some States parties to important provisions of the Covenants.

29. His delegation supported the work of the Human Rights Committee and congratulated the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its successful start.

30. All States, whether or not they were parties to the Covenants, should acknowledge, in word and deed, the interrelationship of all human rights. Civil and political rights could not be promoted without regard to economic, social and cultural rights. While some States played down the importance of economic and social rights, those rights were known to be among those most often violated. The worst violations involved the rights to work, to social security, to education and to free medical care.

31. Some current theories condoned the inability or the unwillingness of certain States to guarantee the protection of fundamental human rights. His country could not subscribe to that approach. While it was understandable that difficulties might arise through lack of resources or as a result of development problems, it was inadmissible for such violations to occur in countries with adequate means.

32. Efforts should be made at the national and international levels to promote full implementation of the two interrelated Covenants, which not only translated into legal obligations many of the ideas contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] but further developed them.

33. Mr. MINET (International Labour Organisation) said that 1988 was the fortieth anniversary not only of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] but also of the Convention (No. 87) concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize,[15] one of the key instruments of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

34. Violations of human rights did not occur in a vacuum. There was a close interdependence between such violations and economic and social conditions, particularly at such a difficult time.

35. ILO placed considerable emphasis on the importance of economic and social policies and, at its forthcoming conference, would be reporting on the impact of the world economic situation in crucial areas, for example, freedom of association.

36. The success of measures such as structural adjustment in developing countries could be assured only if the decisions taken were based upon a social consensus. Social policy also affected equal opportunities and a range of measures were still required to eliminate discrimination against women, migrant workers and others.

37. With regard to employment, there was a tendency to protect those in active employment at the expense of the unemployed, while regulation of the employment market in order to reduce unemployment was, in some cases, undermining workers' rights to fair wages, social security and so on. It was important to avoid a polarization of those in employment and the unemployed.

38. ILO was associated with monitoring of the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and regarded the issue of employment as being central to that implementation.

39. Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that in March 1988 on the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of confirmation of the role of the people, Colonel Qaddafi had announced that no citizen could be imprisoned or prevented from travelling, and had ordered the release of all prisoners, including 130 foreigners. All security services were placed under the people's control, within a legal framework. All citizens were guaranteed freedom of expression and the right to establish trade unions and other associations to protect their interests. Journalists, writers and those concerned with human rights had been invited to visit Libya and to monitor the observance of all rights in the light of the recent changes.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1988/8, E/1988/9 and Add.1, E/1988/10)

40. Mr. GORAJEWSKI (Poland) said that Poland subscribed fully to the view that concerted international efforts were needed to end the inhuman policy of *apartheid*, and supported the call for the termination of all economic and financial collaboration with South Africa. His Government expressed solidarity with all the victims of South African violence and repression.

41. Poland attached great importance to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and regretted that the critical financial situation in the United Nations had affected that Committee's ability to discharge its responsibilities fully. His Government appealed to States parties to honour their obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[12] in order to enable the Committee to resume its normal functioning.

42. Poland fully supported the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,[10] but was concerned at the delays in the implementation of certain activities proposed for the first half of the Decade as well as at the unsatisfactory progress made by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in the study of the results achieved and the obstacles encoun-

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[14] General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

[15] Adopted on 9 July 1948 by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its thirty-first session, held at San Francisco.

tered during the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the first half of the Second Decade.

43. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) expressed regret at the continuing existence of racial prejudice and discrimination in many parts of the world. A particularly abhorrent manifestation of racism was the policy of *apartheid* in South Africa, where one futile measure after another had been taken to suppress popular discontent. The international community as a whole had been stunned by the recent prohibition of all political activity by South African organizations leading the non-violent struggle against *apartheid*. Such prohibitions could only be interpreted as further proof that the South African Government was foundering.

44. Japan had repeatedly urged South Africa to abolish *apartheid* and to present the international community with a credible timetable for the achievement of that goal. It called for the lifting of the state of emergency, the immediate and unconditional release of all detainees, including Nelson Mandela, and the dismantling of the bantustan system. South Africa must also refrain from military incursions into neighbouring territories and grant Namibia its rightful and long-overdue independence.

45. The international community must continue to exert political and economic pressure on South Africa, as Japan itself had done. Furthermore, Japan was making active efforts to promote political dialogue with regional leaders, including black South Africans, and was providing educational and training assistance for young black South Africans and Namibians. It was also assisting the neighbouring African States, which were experiencing grave economic difficulties as a result of South Africa's domestic and regional policies.

46. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would have only symbolic significance until the world succeeded in eradicating all forms of racial discrimination. Japan had contributed for the past two years to the Trust Fund for the Programme of the Decade and would do so again in 1988.

47. His delegation supported the main thrust of the proposed plan of activities for the period 1990-1993,[9] but considered that it was somewhat ambitious to plan to implement all those activities, in addition to other programmes. A more realistic approach should be taken to implement the Programme of Action, for instance, through the identification of priorities and concentration on more urgent, more universal activities. He stressed the importance of long-term educational programmes and public information campaigns, which would eventually provide the most direct means of achieving the goals of the Second Decade.

48. Mr. DING Yuanhong (China) said that the activities discussed in the Secretary-General's report (E/1988/9 and Add.1[11]) had improved the co-ordination of the international community's efforts to achieve the goals of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. He particularly welcomed the contributions made to the Second Decade by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, including the establishment by the Commission of an *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on southern Africa. The Commission was also to be commended for its ongoing work on the formulation of new international instruments to combat racism and *apartheid*.

49. Developments in southern Africa in recent years showed that much remained to be done in combating racism. The international community, and the United Nations in particular, should therefore continue to give top priority to programmes to achieve that end. The Second Decade should be an occasion for strengthening efforts and rendering full support in the form of financial and human resources to that struggle.

50. The Chinese Government and people strongly condemned the South African authorities' criminal suppression of the South African people and pledged to continue to support that people in its just struggle for racial equality as well as the struggle for Namibian independence. With the support of all countries and peoples that upheld justice, the heroic struggle being waged by the South African people would ultimately triumph.

51. Mr. OTT (German Democratic Republic) said that the eradication of policies of racial oppression in various parts of the world, while more important than ever, required political will and action on the part of all States. His own country had demonstrated its commitment by working actively on various United Nations bodies to elaborate measures to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] and had recently hosted a regional seminar on the question of Palestine. The liquidation of *apartheid* lay at the heart of the international struggle against racism. As long as *apartheid* existed, millions of people in South Africa, Namibia and neighbouring African countries would be denied their full range of human rights listed in the two International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] including even the right to live in peace. The plight of children in those countries was especially serious. The recent ban on political activities by the main anti-*apartheid* organizations in South Africa once again showed the world that the racist Government was not prepared to abandon the inhuman *apartheid* system.

52. In the light of those facts, imperialist circles that had been supporting Pretoria in various ways bore a heavy responsibility. The collaboration of transnational corporations, which were allies of the racist régime, must be ended without delay. His delegation supported the demand for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and welcomed any other efforts to settle the conflict in southern Africa in a peaceful and a just manner.

53. The situation of the Palestinian people, whose right to self-determination was being denied by force, was equally alarming. In recent months the Israeli occupiers had committed unprecedented acts of terrorism against the Palestinian civilian population, in flagrant disregard of resolutions adopted recently by the Security Council and the Commission on Human Rights. A political settlement of the question of Palestine must be found, and the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East would be a major step towards such a settlement.

54. For its part, the German Democratic Republic would continue to support States and peoples fighting against imperialism and colonialism for national freedom and social progress. The country's efforts to com-

bat racism and racial discrimination would form an important part of its commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[5]

55. Mrs. NIKOLIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that current developments in South Africa provided ample proof that *apartheid* could not be reformed, but must be eliminated. The introduction of comprehensive, mandatory sanctions would make an effective contribution to the struggle of the South African people to realize its inalienable and fundamental rights. Failure to do so would lead to bloodshed and destruction.

56. With other non-aligned countries, Yugoslavia had always worked for the total eradication of *apartheid* through negotiations between the minority Pretoria régime and the genuine representatives of the oppressed majority population. The necessary pre-conditions for such negotiations were the unconditional and immediate release of all political prisoners, lifting of the ban on activities of political organizations, termination of the state of emergency, withdrawal of military forces from black townships, the safe return of refugees and freedom fighters and the establishment of a free press.

57. The recent unrest in the occupied Arab territories, where the population had been denied their human rights simply because of their national origin, had held the international community's attention for more than five months. The Israeli Government's policy of expansionism and intervention constituted a serious violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the basic principles of international law. Yet history had repeatedly shown that no brutality could divert a people from its struggle for freedom and human dignity.

58. The Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] continued to constitute a valid framework for future activities to combat racism and racial discrimination; the activities planned for the period 1990-1993[9] were particularly relevant. In addition, the Secretary-General should continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment as it affected the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/47. The Council at its current session should also envisage the organization of a seminar of cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers, within the framework of its plan of activities for the period 1985-1989.[8]

59. She expressed regret at the delay in the publication of the Secretary-General's report (E/1988/9 and Add.1[11]), which described a wide range of activities. The Secretary-General had dwelt on the problems facing the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It was particularly unfortunate that the Committee had been forced for financial reasons to cancel yet another session because of its lack of financial resources. The weakening or extinction of that Committee would have negative implications for the implementation of other United Nations human rights instruments.

Mr. Pashkevich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

60. Ms. LAFORTUNE (Canada) recalled that one of the principal objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was to increase international pressure on South Africa to end its hateful system of *apartheid*. While the South African Government had abandoned its efforts to justify the system and was trying to convince the world that it was disappearing, the majority of South Africans continued to be denied their basic human rights. The latest news from South Africa made it clear that the Government did not foresee any real change in the situation.

61. Canada was determined to exert pressure on South Africa in order to encourage it to change its policy and pave the way for a future that would allow the full integration of all South Africans in society, the independence of Namibia and the development of South Africa's neighbours in a climate free of military or economic destabilization. Canada had therefore imposed a series of rigorous economic and other sanctions against South Africa, both unilaterally and in co-operation with the Commonwealth and the United Nations. Economic sanctions had a psychological as well as an economic effect on South Africa, by making it clear to the supporters of *apartheid* that they could not conduct business with the rest of the world so long as they remained faithful to an unacceptable régime.

62. Sanctions were not an end in themselves, but a means of exerting pressure. Canada's trade and other relations with South Africa were not sufficiently developed for such measures by themselves to force that country to effect change. Consequently, in October 1987, the heads of Government of Commonwealth countries had adopted a broad programme of action against *apartheid*. The Commonwealth countries had also established a Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, which had begun a process to enhance the effectiveness of existing sanctions. That Committee also sought to combat South African censorship and propaganda.

63. Canada had provided $5.5 million in support to victims of *apartheid* during the past financial year. An even greater amount would be contributed during the current year as the number of South Africans suffering from deprivation and injustice continued to grow. Much of that assistance was channelled through the Canadian Embassy in South Africa to hundreds of small projects which aided victims of *apartheid* directly. Through the Embassy, the Canadian Government was also able to maintain contact with opposition leaders who were prohibited from leaving the country. Embassy staff demonstrated solidarity by attending trials relating to *apartheid*, religious services and funerals.

64. Canada sought to promote dialogue with and among South Africans with a view to breaking down the barriers erected by *apartheid* and dispelling fears which fuelled the system. The Canadian Government was in contact with South Africans from a wide range of backgrounds, both in that country and in Canada. The dialogue that had been established demonstrated to South Africans that Canada was concerned about what was happening in their country. Unfortunately, the South African Government had shown no real interest in promoting a dialogue with black leaders, preferring instead to ban or imprison them. Nevertheless, political activists, academics and leaders of the African National

Congress of South Africa had met in 1987 at Dakar, Senegal, to discuss their future. Such meetings should be encouraged within and outside South Africa, and Canada was determined to do all it could to promote them.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

9th meeting

Wednesday, 11 May 1988, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.9

In the absence of the President, Mr. Pashkevich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1988/8, E/1988/9 and Add.1, E/1988/10)

1. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the international community must implement the decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and adopt comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The problems of southern Africa must be settled in a way that would ensure the security of the countries of the region and strengthen human rights there. The settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan with United Nations assistance offered a model for the settlement of conflicts in other parts of the world.

2. All States must redouble their efforts to support the Namibian patriots and oppose aggression by South Africa against the front-line States. The Soviet Union intended to pursue its efforts to bring about a just and lasting settlement of the problems in the region so that the people there could live and develop in peace.

3. In the occupied territories, Israel and its supporters must end the policy of terrorism against the Palestinian people and acknowledge the need for a just settlement of the Middle East problem, the crux of which remained the question of Palestine. The Palestinian people must be allowed to exercise its right to self-determination just as Israel had. Any efforts to solve the problems of the region which failed to take those considerations into account were doomed to failure. The convening of an international conference on the Middle East provided a rational basis for a solution.

4. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] called for unrelenting, dynamic efforts, based on an acknowledgement of the international conventions dealing with *apartheid* and racial discrimination and other human rights instruments. Intergovernmental organizations must play a major role in strengthening those instruments and the international climate of opposition to racism, since some countries, even those with high material standards of living, were experiencing significant difficulties in combating racism. Efforts must also be mobilized in those countries to halt the spread of racial hatred and ensure true equality of rights. All countries, particularly the permanent members of the Security Council, should become parties to all human rights instruments. The Soviet Union was a party to all international conventions dealing with *apartheid*, genocide and racial discrimination, and had always implemented those instruments faithfully. In a recent statement, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had noted that social and economic progress in that country had been accompanied by a growing national awareness on the part of the country's more than 100 ethnic groups. He had emphasized that the problems generated by a multi-ethnic society must be resolved carefully by each new generation. A commitment to strengthening equality and friendship among peoples formed the basis of the Soviet Union's international co-operation in the field of human rights and was one of the reasons that racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* was an element of the country's proposal to establish a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

5. Ms. McNISH (Jamaica) said that recent developments in South Africa reflected the contempt in which Pretoria held international opinion. The international community had an obligation to assist the peoples of South Africa to eradicate *apartheid*, and she reaffirmed her delegation's support for effective sanctions against the Pretoria Government.

6. With regard to the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,[10] she pointed out that co-ordination and inter-agency co-operation could only enhance the quality and effectiveness of programme activities. The contacts and meetings that had been initiated with the communications media and the public to mobilize support against racial discrimination were particularly valuable. The global consultation on racial discrimination called for in General Assembly resolution 42/47 offered an additional opportunity for public debate. It was also important that education and training programmes aimed at attacking existing forms of institutionalized racism should be continued.

7. Her delegation was encouraged by the wide-ranging activities being implemented by the specialized agencies. It supported the work done in the context of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. She endorsed the Committee's view that consideration should be given to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[12] as a permanent framework for activities to com-

bat racism (E/1988/9, para. 29), as a means of promoting the objectives of the Second Decade. The training course on the preparation of national legislation provided an excellent opportunity to help countries implement the provisions of that Convention. It was to be hoped that the course would eventually involve a greater number and wider cross-section of countries. Ways of improving the Committee's reporting process, including the consolidation of overdue reports, should be explored with a view to helping States parties submit their periodic reports on time.

8. She was pleased that the plan of activities to be implemented during 1990-1993[9] would continue to emphasize education, training and the dissemination of information. However, more attention should be paid to measures to eradicate *apartheid*; in that connection, the assessment recommended in paragraph 12 (*d*) of document E/1988/9 was essential.

9. Mr. AL-AMERY (Iraq) said that racism continued to exist because of a failure to implement United Nations resolutions and programmes and a lack of commitment on the part of the international community to relevant legal instruments and conventions. An example of such racism was the co-operation between the régimes of Tel Aviv and Pretoria.

10. The fact that the two régimes were indissolubly linked meant that the end of one would entail the end of the other. Both threatened the peace and security of southern Africa and the Arab world; moreover, the Zionist entity continued to challenge the international community by seeking to co-operate with South Africa in the nuclear field.

11. For its part, Iraq had acceded to all international instruments dealing with racism and *apartheid*. The Iraqi Constitution guaranteed all citizens equality before the law, and the Iraqi Head of State had reaffirmed the principle of non-discrimination against peoples in his message to the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[16]

12. Mr. AMSELEM (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, observed that no Member State was called "Zionist entity". He urged the President to request that speakers should utilize the proper names of countries when referring to them.

13. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that under the Egyptian Constitution of 1971 all citizens were equal before the law without discrimination as to race, ethnic origin, language, religion or creed. Egyptian society was thus free of racist and discriminatory practices. Furthermore, Egypt was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[12]

14. Egypt maintained no relations with the racist régime of South Africa, strongly supported the dismantling of such an abhorrent régime and called for the granting of self-determination to the peoples of Namibia and South Africa. All countries, particularly those that could exert pressure on South Africa, should observe and implement the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the context of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[10] In addition, mandatory sanctions must be imposed against the Pretoria régime to force it to change.

15. The Palestinian people, too, was a victim of discrimination. It was strange that some countries that claimed to uphold the principle of self-determination for all peoples remained silent when the cause of the Palestinian people was brought to their attention. The Economic and Social Council, one of the main organs of the United Nations system, must express itself on that issue: any discrimination against Palestinians should be condemned; laws based on discrimination due to race or any other factor should be declared null and void.

16. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said that comprehensive and mandatory sanctions must be imposed against South Africa, and that the provisions of Security Council resolution 418 (1977) must be strictly enforced. Nothing short of the complete political, diplomatic, economic, military and cultural isolation would compel South Africa to relinquish its institutionalized system of racial discrimination.

17. His delegation noted with appreciation the progress which had been made in devising a plan of activities for 1990-1993,[9] the last phase of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Maximum publicity must be given to the efforts to combat racism and to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[12] To that end it would be useful to show films depicting how racial discrimination debased the human dignity of both the victim and the perpetrator. Efforts must be made to urge States which had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention.

18. The financial crisis facing the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was a source of concern, and Pakistan urged all States parties to honour their obligations in order to enable that body to carry out its valuable work.

19. The consideration of the question of racial discrimination would not be complete without a condemnation of Israel's repression of the Palestinian and Arab peoples in the occupied Arab territories. Pakistan remained committed to the Palestinian cause, and called upon the international community to assume its international obligation to compel Israel to restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

20. Another important issue was the treatment of indigenous populations and migrant workers. Care must be taken to ensure that measures to preserve the linguistic and cultural identities of such people were not used to isolate them from the mainstream of national life. Pakistan attached particular importance to the organization of a seminar on cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers, within the framework of the activities planned for 1985-1989.[8]

21. Mr. HOPPE (Denmark), speaking on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, said that the principal responsibility for the eradication of racism and racial discrimination rested with Governments. However, international action was also necessary, and the United Nations had played a key role in increasing public awareness of the evils of racism and in establishing international mechanisms to combat it.

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[16] See *Report of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 1-12 August 1983* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XIV.4, and corrigendum (A/CONF.119/26/Corr.1)), annex II.

22. The Nordic countries had consistently supported the adoption by the Security Council of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa as a way of achieving the abolition of *apartheid* by peaceful means. Moreover, they had decided to take unilateral measures in order to limit their economic and other relations with South Africa. Such measures included prohibitions against investments in or trade with South Africa and Namibia.

23. The Nordic countries believed that assistance to the front-line States must be increased in order to alleviate the effects of destabilization, strengthen their ability to resist military aggression and reduce their economic dependence on South Africa. Likewise, assistance to the opponents and victims of the *apartheid* system must be increased. Such assistance should be a complement to sanctions, not an alternative. The Nordic countries strongly urged South Africa to withdraw its recent draft legislation prohibiting assistance from abroad to the victims of *apartheid*. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Nordic countries, meeting at Tromsoe, Norway, on 23 and 24 March 1988, had adopted a revised version of the Nordic Programme of Action against *Apartheid*, which was a follow-up to the programmes adopted in 1978 and 1985 and included a trade boycott against South Africa and Namibia.

24. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination played a key role in ensuring compliance by States parties with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[12] Regrettably, many States parties submitted their reports very late and some reports were drawn up in a way which was not conducive to serious examination. Another difficulty facing the Committee was the failure of States parties to meet their financial commitments. No State could justifiably claim that it was not in an economic position to pay, and the Nordic countries appealed once again to States to settle, as a matter of urgency, all arrears in order to enable the Committee to proceed with its heavy work-load and normal schedule of meetings.

25. Mrs. MUKHERJEE (India) said that her delegation had read with interest the Secretary-General's report (E/1988/9 and Add.1[11]), but regretted that it had been issued so late. In future, the Secretariat should ensure that documentation was issued well in advance. The report provided a useful overview of the implementation, within the United Nations system, of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[10] While India approved of the various Decade-related activities, it felt that there was a need for a concrete programme of action to mobilize public opinion and the mass media.

26. Her delegation was concerned about the survival of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and appealed to States parties to settle all arrears. It was unfortunate that, on the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] the evils of racism and racial discrimination, barbarously manifested by the abhorrent and inhuman system of *apartheid* in South Africa, continued unabated. The crime of *apartheid* must be eradicated and, in order to achieve that objective, the international community must impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

27. Her delegation wished to express its great concern at the recent events in the Israeli-occupied territories, including Palestine. India supported the just struggle of the hapless inhabitants of those territories to secure their inalienable rights. A comprehensive, just and lasting settlement must be found, and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, must be ensured.

Mr. Aguilar (Venezuela) took the Chair.

28. Mr. CONSTANTINESCU (Observer for Romania) said that Romania strongly condemned the policies and practices of racism and racial discrimination, and expressed its militant solidarity with the national liberation movements of all peoples. Romania condemned the racist régime's oppressive and violent acts against the indigenous African population. However, although *apartheid* had been universally condemned, the situation in South Africa had continued to deteriorate. The international community must take measures to abolish the policies of *apartheid* and racial discrimination and endeavour to create conditions which would enable the entire population of South Africa to participate freely in shaping its own future. The South African racist régime would not relinquish its policy of *apartheid*, end its illegal occupation of Namibia and halt its armed aggression against neighbouring States unless the United Nations adopted mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against that country in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

29. Mr. FAROUQUE (Sri Lanka) said that the implementation of the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993[9] would have been better served by a more careful ordering of priorities. His delegation would have preferred to see the international campaign on the main obstacles to the full eradication of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, and the study on the treatment of political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia launched at the beginning of that period rather than at the end.

30. The central focus of the campaign to combat racism and racial discrimination had always been the eradication of *apartheid*. His country supported the idea that other activities on behalf of victims of racism and racial discrimination should be accorded a priority; however, that should not occur at the expense of the central objective.

31. His delegation reiterated its solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa and Namibia in their struggle against *apartheid*. Sri Lanka deplored the racist policy of the *apartheid* régime and denounced such repressive measures as arbitrary arrest, imprisonment, torture, deportation and the ban on the activities of those organizations and individuals who had opposed *apartheid* by peaceful means.

32. The racist practices of the Pretoria régime had spilled over its borders, thus destabilizing neighbouring States. The immoral system of *apartheid* jeopardized the peace and security not only of the region but of the entire world and it must be eradicated. All forms of spurious constitutional reforms by the South African régime were to be rejected.

33. The discriminatory policies pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab territories and the oppressive measures which it had adopted during the recent uprising had resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives. Lasting

peace for the people of the occupied territories and security for the region could be ensured only through the establishment of an independent State.

34. In keeping with the provisions of the international instruments on human rights, the Sri Lankan Constitution guaranteed that no citizen should suffer discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, language or other grounds and provided penalties for any violation of fundamental rights. His country was a State party to the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*,[14] and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[12]

35. He hoped that the States parties to the latter would make every effort to honour their financial obligations so that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could continue its work unimpeded. His delegation urged those Member States which were not parties to the Convention to give serious consideration to acceding to it.

36. Mr. AHN (Observer for the Republic of Korea) said that it was encouraging to note the large number and wide variety of activities which had been carried out for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

37. Nevertheless, it was deplorable that the *apartheid* system remained unchanged. His delegation shared the view that only the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* could lead to genuine peace and stability in South Africa and throughout the world.

38. His Government had a long-standing policy of not maintaining political, economic, cultural, sports or military relations with South Africa. That restriction would also be applied to the Summer Olympic Games to be held in Seoul in September.

39. His country had actively participated in international conferences on *apartheid*. Since 1978, it had also made contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, the United Nations Fund for Namibia and the United Nations Institute for Namibia. In addition, the Republic of Korea had recently decided to contribute, over a five-year period beginning in 1988, $US 1 million in kind to the Africa Fund Committee established by the Eighth Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries.

40. His delegation reiterated its determination strongly to support concerted international action for the elimination of racial discrimination and *apartheid*.

41. Mr. ABOU HADID (Syrian Arab Republic) said that it was necessary to amend the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993[9] to include measures to combat zionism, which was a form of racism.

42. Events in South Africa, where an entire people was still being deprived of its most basic human rights, namely, the right to live in peace in its own land inherited from its ancestors, proved that the fight against racism and racial discrimination was still far from ended.

43. Despite the public statements by all States expressing unanimity on the decisions to put an end to *apartheid*, a lack of political will on the part of many countries and an unwillingness to match words with deeds had made it impossible for the Organization to implement the calls for action.

44. The population of Palestine, and those living in the occupied Arab territories, shared a common destiny with the black people of South Africa. Like the *apartheid* régime, the racist Zionist régime was attempting to deprive the Arab population of its basic human right to live in peace in its ancestral land. Both racist régimes survived thanks to the support of certain countries which claimed to defend human rights and dignity.

45. His delegation had long awaited the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1988/9 and Add.1[11]). Regrettably, the report had been issued very late. Many of the activities which were to be implemented during the second part of the Decade were far too general and provided no effective solutions. His Government supported the efforts of the United Nations and other organizations to find solutions to the problems of minorities and immigrants, but hoped that those other activities had not been given a higher priority within the Programme of Action.

46. His delegation called for the immediate withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia, the ending of South Africa's mandate over that Territory, and the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

47. His Government supported the boycott of the racist South African régime, and gave its unlimited support to the heroic struggles being waged by all peoples to rid themselves of *apartheid*.

48. Ms. ZOGRAFOU (Greece) said that her delegation fully supported the statement which the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had made on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Economic Community (7th meeting, paras. 31-35). Guided by the belief that only collective action by the international community could effectively combat racism, her Government had joined with the other members of the Community in taking firm legislative and administrative measures against that evil. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[12] was an integral part of Greek domestic legislation. Another law provided penal sanctions for those who publicly incited to acts of discrimination or violence against persons or groups on the basis of their racial or national origin.

49. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had demonstrated that there was an urgent need to continue international activities in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. While commending the Secretary-General for his thorough report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (E/1988/9 and Add.1[11]), her delegation would be unable to comment on the proposals because the report had been circulated so late.

50. There could be no more striking example of racism and racial discrimination than South Africa whose Constitution institutionalized the suppression of human rights for the majority of its population. *Apartheid* constituted the most flagrant violation of the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[5] It could not be

reformed; it had to be abolished, so that a free, democratic society could be established in a united South Africa. That could be achieved only through a genuine national dialogue, across lines of colour and politics. Only broad-based negotiations, involving genuine representatives of the South African population, could bring about a just and lasting settlement.

51. Mr. OUDOVENKO (Observer for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the socialist countries and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries were among the first to boycott South Africa. The majority of States Members of the United Nations had introduced a number of selective sanctions against the Pretoria régime. However, the obstructionist position of certain permanent members of the Security Council had prevented the adoption of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions aimed at isolating the régime. Such behaviour undermined the efforts of the international community to resolve the crisis in southern Africa by peaceful means.

52. His delegation commended the activities of various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as of a number of Governments, in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[10] The activities planned in that field for the period 1990-1991 would make a positive contribution to the elimination of racism, and merited the Council's approval. The international campaign on the main obstacles to the full eradication of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* would help co-ordinate the efforts of Governments and non-governmental organizations.

53. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination played a very useful and important role in combating racism. Over the years, that body had successfully carried out its mandate. Unfortunately, the Committee was experiencing chronic financial difficulties, and in 1987 the Committee had been unable to submit its report to the General Assembly. In that regard, the Byelorussian SSR wished to emphasize once again that all States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[12] must meet their financial commitments.

54. Miss BROŠNÁKOVÁ (Observer for Czechoslovakia) said that there was a growing conviction on the part of some major Western States concerning the need for a speedy elimination of *apartheid*. The transformation of South Africa into a democratic, non-racist State must be in the interest of all countries, regardless of social system. The approach taken by those States which prevented the adoption of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa was morally unjustifiable and politically short-sighted. *Apartheid* could not be reformed. The only alternative to sanctions was escalation of violence.

55. Earlier in the year, the international community had reacted strongly to the Zionist policy of racism pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab territories. A certain parallel could be drawn between the situation in those territories and the situation in South Africa. It was more urgent than ever that the international community should take all necessary steps to ensure that the process of national liberation grew stronger and became irreversible.

56. Her Government was concerned to note a further increase of xenophobia and racial hatred in some economically advanced countries in response to unresolved economic and social problems. While such phenomena should not be exaggerated, there was a certain resemblance to the past, when Nazi, Fascist and other theories of racial superiority had been proclaimed. The United Nations should place greater emphasis on establishing guarantees to prevent such theories from gaining influence among young people. The drafting of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families and the activities of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would be a significant step to that end.

57. Mr. PABÓN-GARCÍA (Venezuela) said that all forms of racism and discrimination were an affront to human dignity and were clearly rejected by the international community. For over 40 years the United Nations had been building up a whole system of legislation to protect human dignity and had played a vital role in making people aware of the dangers of racism. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] it had been unfailing in its efforts to eradicate racism and racial discrimination.

58. As a democratic society, Venezuela had always rejected all forms of racism and racial discrimination, particularly *apartheid*. The recent escalation of violence and the restrictions placed in South Africa on peaceful resistance movements had prevented a solution by peaceful means. Nevertheless, those opposing *apartheid* in South Africa had devised creative strategies to guarantee the continued existence of such movements, which should be supported by the international community. The need for an international response to help bring about significant change in the current situation had become more urgent than ever.

59. He also noted with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General (E/1988/9) and the document containing information from Governments (E/1988/9/Add.1[11]). Those documents, together with the others under the same heading, clearly indicate the broad scope of the activities undertaken in the context of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

60. The Programme of Action for the Second Decade[10] rightly included training activities in connection with the legal apparatus and resources required to combat racism. It also covered educational aspects and the dissemination of information through international campaigns and publications, emphasizing the role of the media. Venezuela supported all such activities.

61. All societies should remain alert to the dangers of racial discrimination and be prepared to combat it. Venezuela itself was a multi-racial society undergoing a continuous process of integration. It had laws guaranteeing equal rights for all its citizens. He hoped that all States which had not already done so would ratify or accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[12] so that it would have universal application. Furthermore, his delegation viewed with concern the serious financial difficulties experienced by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

62. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) welcomed the appointment of Mr. Martenson as Co-ordinator for Decade activities and commended his efforts to strengthen inter-agency co-operation and enhance system-wide mobilization. He supported the priority given

to strengthening contacts with non-governmental organizations which, in many cases, served as a direct link between government and people.

63. It was of utmost importance to focus attention on young people in the campaign to eradicate racism and racial discrimination. Children should be taught from the earliest age that there were no hierarchies of race, colour or religion. Accordingly, it would be desirable to hold a round-table discussion of experts to prepare teaching materials to combat racism and racial discrimination earlier than planned, in other words, during the period 1990-1991.

64. The objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination could not be achieved unless the Pretoria régime dismantled its *apartheid* policy. Despite repeated appeals by the international community, the régime continued to sow destruction and terror within South Africa itself and beyond its borders, in Namibia, the front-line States and even in the Western world.

65. *Apartheid* was a man-made evil and could, therefore, be abolished by man. The only effective way to achieve that was through the continued resistance of the oppressed black majority led by their sole, legitimate representatives and strongly supported by the political will of the entire international community.

66. His delegation favoured total isolation of the racist régime and supported the call for a unanimous decision by the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

67. He hoped that the year 2000 would witness the demise of racism and racial discrimination and that there would be no need for future Decades to combat them.

68. Mr. PRATOMO (Observer for Indonesia) said that the international community must work diligently to ensure that the objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] were fully realized. The *apartheid* system of South Africa embodied the very essence of racism and racial discrimination. The Pretoria régime's continuing repression of a peace-loving people, its total disregard for the rule of law and the disenfranchising of black South Africans had fueled civil unrest in that country, threatening the stability of the entire region.

69. Efforts to resolve the problem peacefully and diplomatically had been made repeatedly to no avail. The policies adopted by the régime had meant further entrenchment while the ban on peaceful resistance was merely another stage in the history of brutal repression, involving torture, mass arrests and detention. In that connection, the delegation of Indonesia renewed its demand for the immediate release of all political prisoners in South Africa, including Nelson Mandela.

70. The most effective and decisive course of action for the international community would be the immediate imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions.

71. Indonesia would continue to do its utmost to seek the isolation of the South African régime and work towards the ultimate eradication of all forms of *apartheid*.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

10th meeting

Friday, 13 May 1988, at 10.40 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.10

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1988/8, E/1988/9 and Add.1, E/1988/10)

1. Mr. PAOLILLO (Uruguay) said that a categorical condemnation of racism and all forms of racial discrimination was one of the founding features of the Uruguayan State and an absolute principle of its foreign policy. Accordingly, Uruguay supported all forms of international co-operation aimed at eradicating racism.

2. The programmes of action made an extremely useful contribution to the effort to eliminate racial prejudice and racist practices and institutions. He had read with great interest the report of the Secretary-General (E/1988/9 and Add.1[11]) and noted with satisfaction the wide variety of activities undertaken by Governments and international organizations, particularly with regard to education and the dissemination of information. Special emphasis should continue to be given to such activities, above all those involving or aimed at large numbers of people. It was vital to communicate the fact that racism was incompatible with the values and dignity of both victim and practitioner, that it violated not only laws, but also basic moral principles. In that connection, he mentioned that an international seminar had been held in Uruguay in 1986 to discuss Latin American views on *apartheid*. It had been accompanied by an information campaign, which had drawn the attention of a great many Uruguayans to the tragedy of *apartheid* for the first time. A similar contribution had been made by a regional seminar held recently at Lima by the Special Committee against *Apartheid* for the benefit of those involved in the Latin American media.

3. His delegation was following with interest the preparation of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families.

4. *Apartheid* in South Africa differed from other forms of racism in that it was institutionalized. Not only was Uruguay a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[12]

but it had also recently ratified the International Convention against *Apartheid* in Sports.[17] It was regrettable that that Convention had so far been ratified by very few countries. He hoped that States which had not already done so would take the necessary measures to become parties to the Convention as soon as possible so that its provisions would be universally applied.

5. South Africa's persistent violation of laws and of the most fundamental moral principles, together with its disregard for the decisions of the United Nations, called for more vigorous efforts on the part of the international community.

6. Ms. FLOREZ PRIDA (Cuba) said that the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade[10] had involved serious efforts to bring about the eradication of racism and racial discrimination. Despite those efforts discriminatory practices persisted in South Africa and Namibia, constituting an affront to the international community. Indeed, since the declaration of the state of emergency, South African repression had become more brutal. The African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) were daily fighting a heroic battle for equality and independence.

7. The Cuban Government accorded high priority to the freedom of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa, the elimination of racism and colonialism in Namibia and South Africa and the creation of the minimum indispensable conditions required for the rightful self-determination of the black majority.

8. Racist South Africa had continued to attack the front-line States, encouraging counter-revolutionary groups to pursue their own attacks against sovereign Governments, such as those of Mozambique and Angola. The latter had suffered repeatedly from a campaign of destabilization and Cuba itself had collaborated with that country in order to prevent an escalation of the South African offensive in the south. A peaceful solution to the conflict in southern Africa, leading to the independence of Namibia, called for implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

9. If the Programme of Action for the Second Decade[10] was to be effective, South Africa must be required to put an end to the brutal repression of its black population, including the imprisonment of children, and to grant the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners. The *apartheid* system as a whole must be abolished.

10. All forms of economic, political and military collaboration with the racist régime by Governments which had traditionally supported it must cease, as must collaboration by the transnational corporations. The policy of "constructive engagement" served only to guarantee the indefinite prolongation of the abhorrent racist régime.

11. The international community must also give urgent consideration to the situation facing the Palestinians in the Arab territories occupied by Israel, which also applied a racist policy. Cuba supported the Palestinian people and its sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in their fight to liberate their homeland and re-establish their inalienable national rights.

12. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Peru) said that racism had been invented to justify domination over third world countries and to rationalize colonialism and centuries of exploitation and discrimination. Struggles against colonialism were, therefore, anti-racist struggles, as was the case in South Africa, where *apartheid*, the worst form of racial discrimination, was the instrument of colonialism.

13. Significant achievements had been made since the first appearance of *apartheid* on the agenda of the General Assembly. An unprecedented international legal apparatus had been set up, the racist South African régime had been more or less isolated and discrimination had essentially been eliminated from the colonial world.

14. Peru had recently hosted a seminar on the role of newsmen and the mass media in Latin America and the Caribbean in the fight against *apartheid*, an event which had provided the opportunity for countries to reconfirm their commitment to, and solidarity with, the sufferings of the South African people.

15. The ban on 17 human rights organizations in South Africa, which had coincided with the session at Geneva of the Commission on Human Rights, constituted a further outrage against human rights and individual freedoms. Bowing to world pressure, the Pretoria régime had recently postponed the execution of the Sharpeville Six. Efforts should now be made by the international community to ensure that the death sentence was not imposed.

16. As Chairman of the Task Force on Political Prisoners, he called on all Member States to participate actively in the international campaign to save the lives of the six. Efforts should not cease until the release of all political prisoners in South Africa had been obtained.

17. Commenting on the electoral "reforms" announced by the Pretoria Government, he said that there could be no half measures. *Apartheid* could be neither reformed nor modified. Even if the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] were to be fully implemented, political pressure increased and existing embargoes and sanctions fully applied, *apartheid* could not be eliminated. It was therefore vital to adopt immediate, comprehensive and mandatory sanctions as provided for under the Charter of the United Nations. Such action was a moral and political imperative for all States.

18. Mr. ASHUR (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that many delegations had referred to the forms of racial discrimination perpetrated against the Palestinian and South African peoples. Those forms of racism, the worst history had known, surpassed the inhumanity perpetrated by the Nazis.

19. The actions that the racist régime in South Africa directed against the South African and Namibian peoples and the front-line States, were no different from those perpetrated by the racist régime which had annexed the territory of neighbouring Arab States and violated their borders. The support given to the two régimes by certain States was crucial to their continued success. The only way to end those tragic situations was through the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against both régimes. The Powers that supported those régimes should abandon their selfish,

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[17] General Assembly resolution 40/64 G, annex.

short-sighted objectives and accede to all international instruments whose goal was the elimination of racism.

20. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was part of the struggle for national liberation in southern Africa. Consideration of the Secretary-General's report (E/1988/9 and Add.1[11]) had not been facilitated by the late appearance of that document. The delay was particularly unfortunate in view of the fact that the report contained suggestions and recommendations for consideration by the Council. As the report constituted a direct response to General Assembly resolution 42/47, the African delegations wished to raise a number of points.

21. Firstly, a sizeable portion of the report merely listed activities instead of focusing on the evaluation and assessment of the impact of the Assembly's decisions and requests, as well as on ways and means of promoting their implementation. The African States had expected the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] to accord highest priority to measures for combating *apartheid*. The repeated failure of the Security Council to impose sanctions against South Africa could only be viewed as a betrayal of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and it necessarily undermined the Organization's credibility.

22. All Governments, non-governmental organizations, labour unions and the mass media should be encouraged to work for the imposition of sanctions and should provide relief and assistance to the victims of *apartheid*, especially refugees and displaced persons. In that connection, the Group of African States fully endorsed resolutions 1988/12 and 1988/13 of the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission should continue to address the reasons which prevented the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on southern Africa from fully discharging its mandate.

23. The Secretary-General's report should have contained a review of the situation in South Africa, particularly in view of recent events. Moreover, the report stated nothing about the role and activities of the United Nations Council for Namibia, an important oversight in view of the fact that the international campaign to contribute to the early independence of Namibia in conformity with Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was a major feature of the plan of activities for 1990-1993.[9] It would be interesting to know what specific measures were being considered by the Secretariat regarding the specific proposals contained in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 42/47 and paragraph 2 (*e*) of its annex.

24. The periodic meetings between the co-ordinator for Decade activities and the media, described in paragraph 38 of the Secretary-General's report (E/1988/9), were most welcome, as were the activities undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to implement the Programme of Action.

25. The concerns which he had just raised reflected the African States' deep concern at the failure of the international community to achieve the objectives of the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and their view that implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade was a pressing necessity. They attached great importance to the international campaign proposed in paragraph 12 (*d*) of the Secretary-General's report (*ibid.*) and supported the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights that the necessary information should be collected to complete the study on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the Decade.

26. The African States urged all States to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[12] and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.[14] The explosive situation created by the racist régimes in South Africa and Israel was a clear example of the threat that racism and racial discrimination posed to international peace, security and stability.

27. He concluded by reaffirming the support of the African States for national liberation movements and the proposal made by the representative of Peru (para. 16 above) for a massive international campaign to save the Sharpeville Six and to bring about the release of all political prisoners in South Africa.

28. Mrs. KUMI (Ghana) said that, more than ever before, men, women and children were being killed for reasons of race, and those who survived had to put up with all the indignities of racial discrimination. In South Africa, the crimes of the racist Pretoria régime had continued unabated. The peoples of South Africa and the front-line States were paying dearly for their resistance to *apartheid*. No effort should be spared to intensify the campaign to dismantle that heinous system.

29. Her delegation associated itself with the comments and suggestions which had been made on behalf of the African States on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[10]

30. Mr. GANDARILLAS (Bolivia) reiterated his delegation's repudiation of the racist and discriminatory policies and practices of the Pretoria régime. In accordance with its policy of support for the struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples for freedom and recognition of their rights, the Bolivian Congress had ratified the International Convention against *Apartheid* in Sports.[17]

31. The international community's support for all peoples fighting colonialism, racial discrimination, racism and *apartheid* must not be allowed to flag. Given that the fight against those scourges was one of the highest priorities of the United Nations, his delegation wished to reiterate its support for the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] and the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993.[9] Of particular importance were the international campaigns referred to in paragraphs 11 (*g*) and 12 (*d*) of the Secretary-General's report (E/1988/9).

32. It was important to evaluate the impact of all those activities and the implementation of the various international conventions in force. Such an evaluation would make it possible to identify the strength and weaknesses of the system and consequently to reinforce those mechanisms which best facilitated the achievement of the objectives of the Second Decade. Efforts to improve and systematize the dissemination of information about racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* and their consequences must be intensified. Likewise, efforts to

provide education regarding the abolition of those anachronisms and similar efforts aimed at improving understanding of human rights should be supported.

33. Ms. ZINDOGA (Observer for Zimbabwe) said that the people of the front-line States, southern Africa and the non-aligned countries had welcomed the launching by the General Assembly in 1983 of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. However, although some advances had been made in the area of education and similar activities, the goals of the Decade were very far from having been achieved.

34. The international community had a special responsibility as far as the total eradication of *apartheid* was concerned. It was regrettable that the Programme of Action for the Second Decade[10] had had no impact in that respect. The Co-ordinator should continue to work very closely with representatives from the region of southern Africa, the Council for Namibia and other relevant bodies. Furthermore, it was important to monitor carefully the activities of transnational corporations.

35. The South African régime had caused untold suffering and havoc in the front-line States and southern Africa and had become desperate enough to take steps to eliminate opponents in other parts of the world. For example, in March, Dulcie September, a representative in Paris of the African National Congress of South Africa, had been murdered in cold blood, and an attempt had been made to assassinate Abbie Sachs in Maputo.

36. As the struggle for freedom intensified, the brutality of the racist military régime increased. Zimbabwe had observed with a deep sense of outrage and indignation the mass arrests, detention and killings of innocent men, women and children. It deplored the lack of political will on the part of some permanent members of the Security Council, which had exercised the right of veto with regard to the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

37. Her delegation strongly condemned the actions being taken in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, where the Palestinian people were subject to another form of racism which deprived them of basic human rights.

38. She hoped that total eradication of *apartheid* and all forms of racial discrimination would be achieved by the end of the Decade.

39. Ms. DERMENDJIEVA (Bulgaria) recalled the efforts made by the international community to eliminate racism from the world. Regrettably, racism appeared to be on the increase, not only in South Africa and the occupied Arab territories, but also in developed Western countries.

40. Nevertheless, the most pressing task remained the abolition of *apartheid*. Recent events in South Africa indicated that the racist Pretoria régime was bent on crushing every peaceful form of opposition to its policies, and it was reported that further legislative measures were being considered to silence all opponents of *apartheid*, black and white. South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and its continued acts of aggression and destabilization against the front-line States, waged with the support of loyal foreign friends of *apartheid*, threatened international peace and security.

41. Her delegation fully endorsed the position set out in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[10] that effective and co-ordinated international action must be taken to eliminate *apartheid*. Reiterating her delegation's support for the struggle of the Namibian and South African peoples, she also called for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter and for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

42. With regard to the situation of the Palestinian people, she endorsed the call for an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all interested parties.

43. As the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination played an important role in United Nations efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination, every effort should be made to solve its financial difficulties. Her delegation fully supported the decisions adopted in that context by the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination at their meeting held in January 1988. Her delegation also attached much importance to the work being done by the Group of Three on the implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. The Group's conclusions regarding the interrelationship between foreign economic activities in South Africa and Namibia and the perpetuation of *apartheid* merited serious consideration and action by all Member States. All Member States that had not yet done so should become parties to those two important Conventions.

44. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, since the General Assembly's adoption of its infamous resolution 3379 (XXX), which equated zionism with racism, Israel had considered the United Nations to be an inappropriate forum to deal with matters concerning racism and racial discrimination.

45. Over the past few days, however, several Arab, non-aligned and Eastern European representatives had made slanderous remarks about his country. Not surprisingly, most of them represented countries which regularly practised racial discrimination against the very people they purported to represent, and their lies and slander against Israel did not merit a response. The representatives who indulged in attacking Israel at random should eliminate the scourge of racism practised in their own countries before coming to the United Nations to preach against racial discrimination.

46. Mr. AL-AMERY (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Zionist entity was engaging in Zionist activities ...

47. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel), speaking on a point of order, said that, while he did not mind being called a Zionist, Member States should be referred to by their proper names.

48. The PRESIDENT asked representatives to refer to other Member States in accordance with established practice.

49. Mr. AL-AMERY (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, in its resolution 3379 (XXX), the General Assembly had equated zionism

with racism. The Israeli régime was based on racist expansionist concepts, which explained Israel's cynical use of brute force in its repression of the Palestinian people. Israel's practices and policies were hardly any less abhorrent than those of South Africa.

50. Mr. KHODUR (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that cigarette smoke could not obscure the sun, and no one could deny Israel's brutal reprisals against the Palestinian people, especially defenceless women and children.

51. Mr. ASHUR (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, unlike the observer for Israel, he would not resort to allegations and lies. The international community would continue to condemn the inhuman crimes committed against the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupiers in the Palestinian and other Arab territories.

52. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representatives of Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya seemed to think that, through constant repetition, their lies and slander would be confirmed as truth. He hoped that members of the Council would not be taken in by such tactics.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

ORAL PROGRESS REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

53. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), Chairman of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, said that, on 18 January 1988, the Commission had embarked on an intensive programme of work to review the functioning of nearly 40 subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council. That had been the first time that an in-depth study of the functioning of the intergovernmental bodies had been carried out by Member States in a consolidated and systematic manner, taking account of the respective rules of the Assembly and the Council, and of the need to ensure that the contribution of the subsidiary machinery enabled those bodies to fulfil their responsibilities under the Charter. The study had been carried out with the help of reports from the subsidiary machinery itself with regard to its functioning and of documents prepared by the Secretariat.

54. There was currently a much better understanding among delegations about the functioning of the subsidiary bodies and the scope for strengthening their capacity to deal with their respective areas of competence. The study had also revealed a general sense of satisfaction that a large number of the subsidiary bodies were performing unique and useful functions in their respective fields. Nevertheless, it had been felt that some adjustments with regard to their programme of work, documentation, schedule of meetings and reporting procedures might be desirable in order to strengthen their functioning and improve system-wide co-ordination.

55. The eighth and ninth sessions of the Special Commission had been devoted to recommendations to be submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1988. A number of delegations and groups had submitted detailed proposals covering a broad spectrum of reform measures.

56. Following discussions on the approach to be adopted with regard to the content of a package of reform measures, and at the request of the Commission, he had prepared a set of draft recommendations which had been formally circulated on 4 May 1988. Unfortunately, owing to the fundamental differences in Member States' perception of the role of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, it had not been possible to adopt a comprehensive package of agreed measures. The major issues standing in the way of an agreement were precisely those which had been before the Commission for more than six months, namely, a precise definition of the role and responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Council; the consequential adjustments in the scheduling and work programmes of the Assembly and the Council; and the question of restructuring the subsidiary bodies through rationalization and streamlining. After intensive consultations, it had become clear that the divergence of views on major issues could not be reconciled, and it had been agreed that the Commission should submit its report to the Council.

57. Although it had not been possible to reach agreement on an overall reform package, there were important areas of convergence. In particular, it had been recognized that a review of the functioning of the United Nations was a continuing process, and that the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields was in the interest of all countries. The General Assembly was the principal forum for policy-making and for the establishment of overall strategies, policies and priorities for the system as a whole with regard to international co-operation in the economic, social and related fields. The Council should be strengthened so that it could carry out its responsibilities under the Charter, especially in regard to the co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of overall strategies, policies and priorities established by the Assembly in the economic, social and related fields. The Council should also recommend to the Assembly overall priorities and policy guidance on operational activities for development. The agenda and programme of work of the Assembly and the Council should be rationalized through biennialization, which should apply equally to both economic and social issues. The subsidiary bodies of the Assembly and the Council should be rationalized on the basis of a set of agreed criteria, and the Assembly and the Council should put greater emphasis on the consideration of the reports of the regional commissions with a view to integrating the regional inputs effectively into the global discussion of substantive issues. The Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should be strengthened and staffed in a way which would enable the Director-General to carry out his responsibilities effectively, particularly in the areas of co-ordina-

tion and operational activities for development. Similarly, Secretariat departments and divisions should be strengthened and/or modified in order to provide adequate substantive and technical support commensurate with the functions of the respective organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. Details on those and other ideas would be included in the Commission's report to the Council at its second regular session of 1988.

58. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the areas of agreement which had been reached during the in-depth study could be used as a basis for future work. His delegation was strongly in favour of far-reaching reforms.

59. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia) said that his delegation concurred with the views of the Federal Republic of Germany but believed that, without knowledge of the overall context of the negotiations which had been held in the Special Commission, it was not possible to provide the General Assembly with precise information regarding points of agreement and disagreement.

60. Mr. KHALIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the socialist countries, said that, although the Special Commission had not been able to overcome differences of opinion, progress had been made and the ideas which had been put forward would contribute greatly to future work. The Soviet Union was committed to the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in the interest of all States.

61. Mr. DAWSON (United States of America) said that his delegation associated itself with the views of the previous speakers. The Special Commission had been given a difficult task and had gone a long way towards completing it successfully. The results of the in-depth study would be useful for years to come and the Commission would continue to be a catalyst in the ongoing process of reforms.

62. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) said that the in-depth study had resulted in a better understanding of the problems of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. His delegation was ready to participate in all consultations on reform measures.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Human rights (E/1988/12, E/1988/89)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE

PART I (E/1988/89)

63. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision 7 of the Commission on Human Rights (E/1988/12, chap. I, sect. B) entitled "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances" which the Second (Social) Committee recommended for adoption to the Council in paragraph 4 of part I (E/1988/89) of its report on agenda item 10.

It was so decided (decision 1988/107).

AGENDA ITEM 3

International Covenants on Human Rights (*continued*)* (E/1988/L.22, E/1988/L.23)

(*a*) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*continued*) (E/1988/L.23)

(*b*) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*) (E/1988/L.22, E/1988/L.23)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1988/L.22)

64. Mr. BOLOT (France), introducing draft resolution E/1988/L.22 on behalf of the sponsors, said that in 1988 the Council would consider the second report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1988/L.18[7]), which contained the Committee's conclusions and recommendations on its methods of work. The draft resolution contained many practical suggestions for improving the functioning of the Committee, and the sponsors hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1988/L.23)

65. Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), introducing draft resolution E/1988/L.23 on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, said that the draft resolution had been taken almost entirely from resolutions adopted without a vote and that the sponsors hoped that it would be adopted unanimously. He pointed out that, in the fifth preambular paragraph, the date "4 December 1987" should read "4 December 1986".

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

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*Resumed from the 8th meeting.

11th meeting

Tuesday, 17 May 1988, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.11

AGENDA ITEM 5

Consideration of the necessary arrangements for the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990

1. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/163, the Council had been requested to consider, as appropriate, the adoption of the necessary arrangements for the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, which was to be held from 6 to 19 September 1988. The Council had already taken action with regard to the preparation of documentation for the meeting. At the current session, the Bureau had consulted with the Secretariat regarding other arrangements, and consultations among regional groups had begun. The Council would have to consider at least four important questions, namely, participation at the meeting, the composition of the Bureau of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, organization of work and a provisional agenda.

2. Mr. ABDOUN (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Bureau of the *Ad Hoc* Committee should be composed of one chairman, three vice-chairmen and one rapporteur. He had already begun informal consultations with the chairmen of the regional groups and with interested delegations regarding the composition of the Bureau.

3. The *Ad Hoc* Committee should have three working groups. The first should consider financial resources, alleviation of the debt burden, and terms of trade; the second should deal with the review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;[18] and the third should evaluate the measures taken by the United Nations system as a whole to implement the Programme of Action. No more than two working groups should meet simultaneously.

4. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia) said that his delegation had, on behalf of the African States, consulted with the chairmen of the regional groups and with interested delegations and that the proposals of the Group of African States had been favourably received. Those States hoped that the Council would be able to adopt a draft text at the current session.

5. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed that Mr. Pashkevich, Vice-Chairman of the Council, should coordinate consultations on the necessary arrangements for the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

FIGHT AGAINST LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION IN AFRICA

6. Mr. SYROGIANIS-CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the last infestation of locusts had begun in 1950 and had continued until 1963. As many as 30 countries had been affected at any given time, and approximately 50 countries had been invaded in 1959. The locusts had had a devastating effect on agriculture. In 1954, for example, over a period of six weeks, swarms of locusts had caused $US 14 million worth of damage to citrus crops in Morocco. In the Sudan, 55,000 tons of grain had been lost. In 1957, 15,000 tons of millet had been destroyed in Senegal. In Ethiopia in 1958, locusts had devoured approximately 170,000 tons of cereal crops, enough to feed 1 million people for a year. In 1962, in India, 4,000 hectares of cotton had been destroyed.

7. Swarms of locusts were capable of invading practically all the African countries north of the equator, as well as the countries of the Middle East and south-west Asia, including most of India. Favourable conditions for reproduction in the area of the Red Sea at the end of 1985 had triggered the current infestation. Despite the preventive action taken in Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and Ethiopia, some of the locusts had swarmed into Saudi Arabia and had reproduced within that country. In July and August 1986, the swarms had migrated west across northern Sudan. The migration had passed unnoticed, as had the reproduction of the first generation, but medium-scale preventive operations had been carried out in the Sudan, the Niger and Mali to prevent the reproduction of a second generation.

8. The abundant rainfall at the beginning of the summer of 1987 had enabled some of the insects to find suitable areas for reproduction, in particular in north-eastern Chad and western Sudan. Preventive operations had been mounted in response to the large-scale infestations but had not achieved satisfactory results.

9. In October, high winds blowing from the east had pushed the swarms west; that had resulted in the invasion of western Algeria, south-western Morocco, northern Mauritania and Western Sahara. Large-scale operations had been undertaken but had been unsuccessful for three reasons: the persistence of conditions favourable for reproduction, the limited effectiveness of insecticides, and the inaccessibility of certain parts of the infested regions.

10. Since the beginning of February 1988, new swarms of locusts had formed. Some had migrated north and north-west and had entered Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, while those which had appeared later had

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[18] General Assembly resolution S-13/2, annex.

moved south and had invaded southern Mauritania, Cape Verde, Senegal, the Gambia, Mali and the Niger before starting their reproductive cycle.

11. Since the beginning of the 1950s, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had been co-ordinating national, regional and international efforts to fight the locusts. Since 1972, FAO also functioned as an early-warning service which gathered and analysed information and published monthly reports. Interested member countries reviewed those activities and regularly submitted their advice. In addition, the Joint Anti-Locust and Anti-Aviarian Organization (OCLALAV) and the Desert-Locust Control Organization for East Africa (DLCO-EA) provided regional co-ordination for West and East Africa, respectively.

12. Co-ordination and support activities for the emergency campaign were being provided by the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations (ECLO) at FAO headquarters. The Centre, which had been established by the Director-General of FAO in 1986, dealt with the problem of locusts in the countries of the Sahel and other African countries, and had been given special authorization with respect to finances and administration.

13. The campaign to fight the infestations was being planned and carried out in close co-operation with the affected countries and the international community. At the country level, national committees had been set up in which the representatives of the countries, donor institutions and FAO assessed, by mutual agreement, the situation and requirements. The results of the deliberations of the committees were submitted to FAO and to the headquarters of participating donor institutions. All information was analysed by the Centre and then submitted to the donors in order to enlist their support. Emergency assistance was provided either bilaterally, within the general framework of plans of action, or multilaterally, through FAO. In either case, the Centre gave detailed advice regarding the assistance to be provided in order to ensure that such assistance was commensurate with needs and to avoid overlapping. FAO offered countries the services of expert entomologists and specialists in locust infestation, and also provided technical support for airborne spraying teams set up at the subregional level.

14. Large-scale anti-locust campaigns had already been carried out in Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. More than 90 aircraft were involved in that campaign, and more than 3.5 million hectares had been treated. Initially, efforts had focused on eliminating the swarms of invading locusts, but for the past several weeks priority had been given to fighting hatchlings. However, because of the extraordinary dimensions of the invasion, preventive operations had been only partially successful and new swarms would form in May and June and would again cross the Sahara and swell existing populations. Locust reproduction in the Sahel would probably be extremely widespread and difficult to control, especially since it had begun at least two months earlier than usual. Very large swarms of locusts would form towards the end of the summer reproduction season, in September and October. Once again, most of the swarms would probably migrate to north-west Africa, while others could move east towards the Sudan and the Red Sea basin. Although the situation had been relatively calm in the Red Sea region, in recent weeks a number of swarms had been sighted in south-east Egypt, in the north of Saudi Arabia and in the desert of western Egypt.

15. Crop damage had been relatively slight since there was very little agriculture in the regions in question. The situation was likely to change very rapidly, however, when the swarms reached West Africa. The area affected was more extensive than at any time since the 1950s and, in spite of the efforts to combat it, the infestation was expected to last for at least two more years. Because of the increases in agricultural production and rural population over the past 30 years, the effects of any further unchecked infestation would be more disastrous than ever before.

16. The countries affected and the international community of donors must join forces to fight this invasion. Intensive effort was called for at the national level, together with effective co-operation at the regional level to ensure maximum benefit from the resources available, particularly with regard to the exchange of information.

17. Because the situation changed so quickly, plans had to be updated constantly and considerable support would be required from donors.

18. In addition to national efforts, the Maghreb countries had taken steps to increase regional co-operation. Their contribution amounted to around $30 million, while various other countries and international organizations had made, or had promised to make, generous donations totalling around $40 million. The total amount of financing required for 1988 was estimated at over $150 million.

19. There had been much discussion about the use of pesticides, in particular of dieldrin, which had serious ecological implications. New products had been added to the list of recommended pesticides and that should help to ensure that stocks did not run out and that prices were not raised unexpectedly.

20. All parties concerned would continue to work closely together and planning meetings would be organized as required. FAO would be responsible for co-ordination and would collect and disseminate data on developments in the locust situation. Furthermore, in close collaboration with national committees, it would seek to identify requirements and to establish contacts with donors to obtain the necessary support. Damage could be limited if the efforts undertaken were fully supported.

21. Every possible effort should be made to keep crop losses to a minimum. It was also important to assess medium-term requirements as soon as possible so that countries could become better equipped to combat locusts in future. Preliminary plans had already been drawn up to reinforce national locust control services in Mauritania, Mali, the Niger and Chad, supplementing a co-operation network linking them with the Maghreb countries. Those plans would be finalized at the end of June. Attention should also be paid to the requirements of countries in other regions. A medium-term aid proposal had been worked out for the Sudan.

22. With regard to prevention, it was vital to study residual locust populations at times of recession. FAO had therefore set up an information service closely linked with all the countries concerned. In view of the

need for improvement at national and international levels, it had been proposed that greater use be made of remote-sensing techniques to improve the quality of observation and weather forecasting in the regions in which infestations originated, and to measure the development of vegetation.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination *(continued)* (E/1988/L.24)

DRAFT RESOLUTION (E/1988/L.24)

23. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan), introducing draft resolution E/1988/L.24 on behalf of the Group of African States, said that it was similar to the resolution adopted by the Council in 1987, and the sponsors hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

24. The PRESIDENT, replying to a question from Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom), said that the Council would receive a statement on the financial implications of paragraph 12 the following day.

AGENDA ITEM 3

International Covenants on Human Rights *(continued)* (E/1988/L.22, E/1988/L.23)

(*a*) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights *(continued)* (E/1988/L.23)

(*b*) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights *(continued)* (E/1988/L.18/Add.1, E/1988/L.22, E/1988/L.23)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1988/L.18/Add.1, E/1988/L.22)

25. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to document E/1988/L.18/Add.1 containing a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1988/L.22. He also pointed out that Canada, Denmark and Senegal had joined in sponsoring the text.

26. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Council) said that the financial implications of paragraph 10 of the draft resolution were given in paragraph 7 of document E/1988/L.18/Add.1. Conference-servicing costs in 1989 would amount to $67,000 on a full-cost basis, while additional subsistence allowances for five members of the Committee would amount to $6,500. No additional appropriation should be required.

27. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) suggested that the draft resolution should not be discussed until the Second (Social) Committee had concluded its morning meeting.

28. The PRESIDENT, supported by Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom), proposed that the meeting should be suspended until the Committee had finished its meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 a.m. and resumed at noon.

29. Mr. STUART (Australia) proposed that paragraph 3 of the draft resolution be amended to read as follows:

> "*Invites* States parties to the Covenant to follow the recommendations made by the Committee to address the problems of non-submission and extended delays in the submission of periodic reports, in particular ...".

30. The phrase "in accordance with the practice of the Human Rights Committee", in paragraph 13, should be replaced by "paying particular attention to relevant practices followed in other treaty bodies including the Human Rights Committee". Lastly, the phrase "upon its request" should be inserted after the word "Committee" in paragraph 20.

31. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that he preferred the original wording of paragraph 13.

32. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia) requested that discussion of the draft resolution be deferred until the text of the changes had been circulated.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1988/L.23)

33. Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that a revised text of draft resolution E/1988/L.23 would be issued shortly.

34. He proposed that, in the revised version, the following text from Council resolution 1987/4 should be added at the end of paragraph 2: "as well as to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights so that these instruments acquire genuine universality".

35. Moreover, he proposed that paragraphs 8 and 10 of General Assembly resolution 42/103 should be inserted after paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, as paragraphs 4 and 5, and that the remaining paragraphs be renumbered accordingly. He said that Denmark, Italy, Norway, Portugal and the United Kingdom had joined the sponsors of the text.

36. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) expressed reservations with regard to the insertion of the new paragraph 5.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

12th meeting

Tuesday, 24 May 1988, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.12

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (E/1988/L.19)

1. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director, Branch for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), introducing the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on its seventh session (E/1988/L.19), said that the controversies surrounding the issue of Secretariat support to CEDAW should not obscure the significant positive achievements made by the Committee. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[19] had been ratified by 94 countries, and CEDAW had considered 45 initial and 2 second periodic reports during its seven sessions. Moreover, CEDAW had contributed to the formulation of global policy through the general recommendations and suggestions which it derived from its review of States' reports. In its latest report (*ibid.*, sect. V) the Committee had made recommendations dealing with the increased use of temporary special measures to advance the integration of women into education, employment, politics and the economy; the establishment and strengthening of effective national machinery; the strengthening of co-ordination between the Secretariat units concerned with human rights and with the advancement of women; opportunities for women to represent their Governments at the international level; and encouraging the specialized agencies to contribute to the Committee's work.

2. In that context, the problems faced by the Committee were particularly distressing, as reflected in the fact that the Committee had been unable to adopt its report during the two sessions which had been held in New York. There were a number of reasons for the delay. One was the financial crisis, which had meant that only part of the relevant Secretariat unit could be brought to New York. Another was the unusual length of the report, which had made it harder to translate into all languages. Furthermore, the Committee's volume of work was not likely to decrease. Since the next session would take place in Vienna, the servicing problems directly related to venue would not recur until 1990. If current staffing levels were maintained, Secretariat support to the Committee would be based on three full-time Professional officers. The Committee had proposed that eight additional meetings should be authorized for its eighth session in 1989 in order to complete the elimination of its backlog. Furthermore, some of the problems might be reduced if a more concise report could be prepared. The Committee was already concerning itself with improvements in its working procedures, especially the development of guidelines for the preparation of the second periodic reports.

3. Ms. DU Yong (China) said that the ratification or accession by 94 States to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[19] showed that an increasing number of countries had come to recognize the importance of realizing genuine equality between men and women and of ensuring a greater role for women in economic and social development. However, discrimination against women still existed in many countries and regions, and strenuous efforts by the international community and Governments were required to rectify that situation.

4. She noted with satisfaction that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women not only had considered 11 initial reports and two second periodic reports at its seventh session but had also held serious discussions about increasing its efficiency and improving its methods of review and evaluation. She endorsed the general recommendations and suggestions adopted by the Committee.

5. In view of the broad influence and important role of the Committee, conference services for its sessions should be improved to enable it to work more effectively.

6. She noted that the Chinese Government had made remarkable progress in ensuring equal rights for women, and had vigorously supported the work of the Committee ever since its establishment. She appealed to countries which had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as early as possible.

7. Mr. MIYATA (Japan) said that, although the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had conducted an intensive examination of reports from 13 countries and had adopted several recommendations concerning issues relating to women at its seventh session, some organizational problems had become apparent. First, the Committee had failed to adopt its report at the session, thereby delaying distribution of the report. The Secretariat's explanation for the delay had focused on the inadequate level of human resources allotted for the session and inadequate financial resources for the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as a whole. His delegation therefore hoped that the financial problems would be fully studied by the relevant bodies, in the light of the increasing social necessity of making women's issues a top priority. It was also imperative, however, to enhance co-ordination within the Centre itself, maximizing the use of all existing mechanisms and establishing or strengthening co-operative relations among the organs concerned, particularly between the Committee and the Commission on the Status of Women.

8. Secondly, the growing backlog of reports had led the Committee to appeal for additional meetings. It might be useful to study that problem, so as to eliminate backlogs and rationalize the existing system.

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[19] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

9. Thirdly, when considering reporting obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[19] and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[20] attention should be paid to the interrelationship between the two documents. Merging the reports would be one possible way of reducing the burden on Member States. It was also important to increase the efficiency of the Committee's deliberations. Accordingly, consideration should be given to the issue of periodicity and simplification of the reporting system. The guidelines for the preparation of the second periodic reports, contained in annex IV of E/1988/L.19, would help rationalize that system.

10. Fourthly, his delegation hoped that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would give full consideration to the Committee's recommendation that its sessions should continue to be held alternately in Vienna and New York.

11. His delegation felt that reservations that were evidently incompatible with the purposes of the Convention must not be accepted. However, countries that were working towards the goals of the Convention should not be discouraged from becoming parties to it. Frank exchanges of views among States parties would help to bridge the gaps between the different views on the issue.

12. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that Egypt considered the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[19] to be a milestone on the long road towards the advancement of women and the elimination of all suffering by, and discrimination against, women. Egypt was honouring its obligations under the Convention and had submitted its initial and second periodic reports.

13. The co-operative spirit shown at the seventh session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had been reflected in its report (E/1988/L.19). Egypt welcomed paragraph 7 of the report, particularly the statement that rationalization of the Committee's procedures had become a necessity. His delegation also supported paragraphs 12, 13 and 43 of the report, which emphasized the Committee's contribution to the implementation of the Convention, noted that its general recommendations were used as a basis for establishing priorities and called for the Committee to be flexible and have a real dialogue with the representatives of States parties rather than merely to submit a list of questions.

14. Egypt also supported paragraphs 14 and 44, in particular the statement in paragraph 44 that "the Committee agreed to be flexible in examining reports by taking due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of the countries". His delegation fully supported the recommendations contained in paragraph 54 (*c*) and (*d*) and general recommendation No. 7. All necessary and appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that adequate resources and services were made available to the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 3

International Covenants on Human Rights (*concluded*) (E/1988/L.22/Rev.1, E/1988/L.23/Rev.1)

(*a*) **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*concluded*) (E/1988/L.23/Rev.1)**

(*b*) **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*concluded*) (E/1988/L.18/Add.1, E/1988/L.22/Rev.1, E/1988/L.23/Rev.1)**

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1988/L.18/Add.1, E/1988/L.22/Rev.1)

15. Mr. BOLOT (France) stated that Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru had become sponsors of the revised draft resolution (E/1988/L.22/Rev.1) and said that after consultations the sponsors had agreed to delete the words "including the Human Rights Committee" from paragraph 13. They therefore hoped that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution E/1988/L.22/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 1988/4).

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1988/L.23/Rev.1)

Draft resolution E/1988/L.23/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 1988/5).

16. THE PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*concluded*) (E/1988/L.24, E/1988/L.26)

17. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/1988/L.26 containing a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1988/L.24, which was before the Council.

18. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Deputy Director, Centre for Human Rights), recalling the questions raised at the tenth meeting by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the Group of African States, said that General Assembly resolution 42/47 had been sent by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Council for Namibia by a letter dated 18 January 1988 in which the Council was asked to submit information for the annual report of the Economic and Social Council. The requested information had so far not been received by the Centre for Human Rights.

19. The study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment as it affected the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers (A/42/492), had been considered by the General Assembly at its forty-second session and, pursuant to its resolution 42/47, the Secretary-General was preparing specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination.

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[20] See *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I.

20. The study on the role of private group action to combat racism and racial discrimination[21] had been submitted to all Governments and all relevant organs for further comments and views. Pursuant to the request contained in General Assembly resolution 42/47, a final report would be placed before the Assembly at its forty-third session.

21. The study on the treatment of political prisoners and detainees in South Africa and Namibia was a new proposal as reflected in the plan of activities to be implemented during 1990-1993. That study would be carried out in connection with the programme budget to be prepared for the biennium 1992-1993.

22. With respect to the Secretary-General's report (E/1988/9), the question of evaluation was a responsibility which the General Assembly had assigned to the Economic and Social Council. Paragraph 24 of General Assembly resolution 42/47, to which the representative of the Sudan had referred, reiterated the Assembly's request. The Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights had drawn the Council's attention to that responsibility in his introductory statement on 9 March 1988 (7th meeting, para. 7). The evaluation of the activities for the Decade was a serious matter of policy which was within the sole competence of the Council.

23. Finally, in approaching the preparation of the 1989 report to the Council, the Secretariat would give close consideration to the observations made by the Group of African States, with a view to reflecting those concerns, to the extent possible, in the report.

24. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan), referring to the role of the United Nations Council for Namibia in implementing the Programme for the Decade, said that the Group of African States would like to see in future reports the indicators and elements that assisted the Economic and Social Council in its follow-up work. Secondly, with respect to the effects of racial discrimination on education, training and employment as it affected children of persons belonging to minorities, the intention of the Group of African States had been to highlight the follow-up aspect.

25. Mr. AMSELEM (United States of America) said that his delegation would not participate in the adoption of draft resolution E/1988/L.24. The United States had been one of the most enthusiastic supporters of resolution 3057 (XXVIII), on the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. However, since then, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3379 (XXX), equating zionism with racism. No action had contributed more to the steady decline in support for the United Nations. That resolution was a smear on the United Nations and an insult to the people of Israel. The United States hoped someday to participate once again in the activities of the Decade.

Draft resolution E/1988/L.24 was adopted (resolution 1988/6).

26. Mr. REINBOTHE (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his country was deeply committed to the goals of the Second Decade and, accordingly, had been pleased to see the draft resolution adopted without a vote. However, he had difficulties with the reference to migrant workers in the context of that resolution because he did not believe that a link could be established between the status of migrant workers and racism.

DRAFT DECISION PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT

27. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations training course on the preparation of national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination (E/1988/10).

It was so decided (decision 1988/108).

28. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 2.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

FIGHT AGAINST LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION IN AFRICA (*concluded*)

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1988/L.25

29. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia), introducing draft resolution E/1988/L.25 on behalf of the Group of African States, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom, said that the sponsors had submitted the draft resolution to urge the international community to undertake joint action to counter and eradicate the locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa. He stressed the importance of paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, in view of Africa's problems with regard to food production and self-sufficiency. He noted that, in paragraph 2, the words "and, in particular, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations," should be inserted following the phrase "international organizations". The phrase "donor countries", in that paragraph and in other paragraphs in which it occurred, should read "donors". In paragraph 6, the words "and environmentally sound" should be inserted following the phrase "and more effective".

Draft resolution E/1988/L.25, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 1988/3).

DRAFT DECISIONS PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT

30. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the oral report made on 3 and 9 May 1988 (6th and 7th meetings) by the representative of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the implementation of Council resolution 1987/54 on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

It was so decided (decision 1988/109).

31. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the oral report made on 3 May 1988 (6th meeting) by the representative of the United Nations High

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[21] A/41/550.

Commissioner for Refugees on assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/132.

It was so decided (decision 1988/110).

32. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the request of the Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to hold the fourteenth session of the Group at Geneva from 17 to 26 May 1989 instead of in September 1989.

It was so decided (decision 1988/111).

33. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the oral progress report made on 13 May 1988 (10th meeting) by the Chairman of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, pursuant to Council decision 1987/112.

It was so decided (decision 1988/112).

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

13th meeting

Wednesday, 25 May 1988, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.13

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*continued*) (E/1988/L.19, E/1988/L.28)

1. Ms. NIEMAN (Canada) commended the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for its emphasis on a flexible approach to the examination of reports, taking due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of the countries reporting.

2. Her delegation shared the concern that the allocations in the 1988-1989 programme budget were not sufficient to enable the Committee to function efficiently or effectively. In that connection, she recalled the views of the Commission on the Status of Women, as expressed in paragraph 10 of the annex to its resolution 32/1 (see 1988/15, chap. I, sect. C), which highlighted the effect on resources of the interlinked secretariat functions performed for the Commission and the Committee. She noted also that the Committee was becoming increasingly involved in the mainstream of United Nations activities in the field of human rights, and expressed satisfaction that its Chairperson would attend the meeting of chairpersons of supervisory bodies for the implementation of human rights treaties later in the year.

3. Paragraph 10 of the annex to resolution 32/1 of the Commission also drew attention to the close relationship between the Commission and the Committee. They were serviced jointly by the Branch for the Advancement of Women, and each had central responsibility for ensuring implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[19] a fundamental United Nations document. Canada had consistently encouraged closer and more effective links between the two bodies, as well as between the Convention and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.[20] Reports and reporting requirements under the Convention should be linked to the Commission's supervisory role in monitoring the implementation of international standards.

4. She welcomed, therefore, the Commission's highlighting of those links in recent resolutions, encouraging Member States to minimize duplication of effort by making use of the reports prepared by the Committee in the preparation of the five-yearly review and appraisal reports, and recommending that the chairpersons of the Committee and the Commission attend meetings.

5. Both the Committee and the Commission had made significant efforts to review and reform their respective working procedures and had made constructive and compelling cases for increased resource allocations in the 1990-1991 programme budget.

6. Mrs. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) said that implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[19] would further contribute to the achievement of the three goals of the United Nations Decade for Women, above all, equality. It was of paramount importance, therefore, that the Convention should be faithfully implemented and that the States parties should report regularly to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. She noted with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention, an encouraging trend which she was confident would continue.

7. In the Committee's report (E/1988/L.19), it was indicated that the seventh session had been held in a spirit of co-operation with a commitment to further rationalization of work and improved efficiency. The Committee had made commendable efforts to reduce the backlog of reports to be considered, but the number of overdue reports remained disturbingly high. In that connection, the representative of Yugoslavia supported suggestion 1 (*ibid*., chap. V), in which the Council was requested to recommend the approval of eight additional meetings of the Committee, especially since it met only once a year for two weeks, while some of the treaty bodies had as many as three 3-week sessions a year.

8. The lack of secretarial, technical and legal assistance during the Committee's previous session suggested that it was not receiving the same treatment as other human rights treaty bodies. Accordingly, her del-

egation fully supported general recommendation No. 7 (*ibid.*).

9. Consideration of the reports of States parties had once again confirmed that a gap remained between the generally good status of women *de jure* and their *de facto* position in society. The Committee could help to improve the situation through meaningful dialogue with the States parties.

10. She welcomed the growing public attention focused on the work of the Committee and on implementation of the Convention by the States parties. The reports submitted provided a valuable source of information with regard to the advancement of women at the national level, and she fully supported, therefore, the view of the Commission on the Status of Women that such reports were of direct relevance to the Commission's task of monitoring and appraising implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.[20]

11. Mr. STUART (Australia) said that the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[19] had been one of the highlights of the United Nations Decade for Women, and the Committee established by the Convention had emerged as an effective and vital element in the international legal framework. The serious-minded and independent approach of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/1988/L.19) was once again evident from its report on the seventh session.

12. Referring to the consideration of Australia's initial report at that session, he praised the Committee for its well-informed and detailed questioning. The report reflected the importance accorded by Australia to the Convention, which had become the constitutional basis for federal legislation to counter discrimination against women.

13. The situation with regard to resources had reached crisis point when the Committee had been unable to adopt its final report and its recommendations and suggestions had thus lacked legal status. The States parties and the Commission on the Status of Women had been impeded in their consideration of the matters raised by the Committee. Not only was there inadequate provision of secretariat services, but there was also a need for professional and technical back-up. Noting the view expressed that the Committee was a "poor relation" amongst treaty bodies, he pointed out that the Convention had one of the largest memberships of both States and expert members. Since it was also a relatively new instrument, it was likely that still more countries would accede to and ratify the Convention.

14. The difference in costs between New York and Vienna as meeting venues was negligible and the Committee itself should, like the Human Rights Committee, decide where to meet. Adequate resources must be provided as soon as possible to ensure that the Convention continued to be an effective means of promoting the international advancement of women. The Committee had set a fine example among treaty bodies by its energetic and effective efforts to streamline working procedures and assist States parties in the preparation of reports. He welcomed the participation of a representative of the Committee at the meeting of chairpersons of bodies established by treaties to be held in October, and hoped that the United Nations would play a key role in publicizing both the Convention itself and the work of the Committee.

15. Mr. JOHN (German Democratic Republic) said that the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had been invaluable in promoting the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[19] The dialogue between the experts on the Committee and the representatives of States parties to the Convention made it clear that treaty bodies helped improve international relations as a whole. However, the experience gained by the Committee showed that ensuring equal rights for men and women involved social as well as legal processes; consequently, the achievement of equality for women might take longer in some countries than in others.

16. His delegation welcomed the holding in 1989 of seminars to review the progress achieved in implementing the Convention and was ready to take part in the preparation of those meetings. It also endorsed the Committee's recommendation with regard to educational programmes for women, but cautioned that conclusions drawn on the basis of a single country's periodic report should not be used as criteria for judging all States parties. The dialogue between Committee members and the representatives of the States parties must remain the chief concern of the Committee, whose mandate was clearly set out in article 17 of the Convention. His delegation expected that the experts, who were elected in their personal capacity, would abide by that mandate and adjust their working methods accordingly. Attempts to turn the Committee into a mechanism for imposing conditions on sovereign States or on the United Nations did not promote the implementation of the Convention or the cause of women itself.

17. The Committee's efforts to rationalize its work further were commendable. In that connection, his delegation supported the request made at the fourth meeting of States parties to the Convention to provide the Committee with the necessary facilities to enable it to function as effectively as other human rights treaty bodies.

18. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, at its seventh session, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had adopted a realistic and flexible approach to the consideration of reports of States parties. The Committee should consider the submission of such reports as an opportunity for establishing a dialogue between the Committee and the Governments concerned. Such a dialogue would lead to a better understanding of Governments' efforts and achievements as well as the difficulties which they encountered in implementing the Convention. The Committee's approach to the drafting of general recommendations also seemed correct. Such recommendations should be based on the discussion of the reports considered at the session.

19. At its seventh session, the Committee had been unable to adopt its report, and his delegation hoped that, in future, measures would be taken to ensure that the Committee would not be obliged to adopt its report after the closure of its session. The situation at the end of the session had been due not only to inadequate servicing by the Secretariat but also to a lack of clear-cut planning by the members of the Committee. In partic-

ular, too much time had been spent on procedural matters. The Committee should adhere strictly to its mandate as defined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[19] Finally, his delegation hoped that the necessary measures would be taken to improve secretariat services.

20. Mrs. RUIZ (Observer for Mexico) said that while her country had always accorded high priority to the observance of human rights and the advancement of women, its customs and traditions had prevented it from advancing as fast as it might have done towards the full participation of women and the practical acknowledgement of their equal status. Accordingly, she welcomed the activities of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and its contribution to the codification of international law and the practice of treaty law, particularly its assistance to States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[19] with regard to compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

21. Adverse conditions must not be allowed to overshadow that work. The report on the seventh session indicated the considerable effort the Committee had made to fulfil its mandate, reorganizing and rationalizing its activities to keep pace with the reports from the countries. The request for additional meeting days should be granted, bearing in mind that more States parties meant more work for the Committee.

22. The documentation produced by the Committee was of great value to the Commission on the Status of Women, and all bodies dealing with issues relating to women should work closely together. The report showed that the Committee's work was entirely consistent with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[20] and the objectives of the Decade for Women.

23. The financial crisis affecting the Organization as a whole had produced the unacceptable conditions in which the seventh session of the Committee had taken place. Her Government was seriously concerned by the lack of support on the part of the Secretariat and by the inadequate services provided. No meeting of a body established by a treaty should lack the necessary services, regardless of its venue. Her delegation had supported all the decisions and resolutions designed to remedy the situation, and urged the competent authorities to ensure that appropriate action was taken. Achievement of the ultimate objective of the Convention called for the active participation and good will of all those concerned.

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1988/L.28

24. Mr. KRENKEL (Observer for Austria), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Yugoslavia, said that the well-balanced, carefully drafted text reflected the consensus reached by sponsors representing all regional groups. Since the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was the most specific international instrument in the field in question, it was in the interests not only of the States parties, but also of those States considering ratification, that the implementing apparatus should discharge its functions objectively and efficiently.

25. As a result of last-minute consultations, a fifth preambular paragraph should be added, reading:

> "*Noting* that the Committee agrees, in examining reports, to take due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of the countries,".

26. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 were identical to the corresponding paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 42/60. Paragraph 4 was a general reference to the Committee's report, the sponsors having decided not to include references to specific paragraphs. Paragraph 5 reflected the difficulties experienced by the Committee at its seventh session because of lack of resources, and paragraph 9 called for the provision of the necessary staff and facilities. Paragraph 10 reflected suggestion 1, contained in the report. Since all differences had been taken into account, he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 6

University of the United Nations

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1988/92)

27. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on a draft decision entitled "Report of the Council of the United Nations University" which the First (Economic) Committee had recommended to the Council for adoption in paragraph 4 of its report on agenda item 6 (E/1988/92).

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1988/113).

28. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 6.

AGENDA ITEM 7

International co-operation in tax matters

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1988/93)

29. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on a draft decision entitled "*Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters" which the First (Economic) Committee had recommended to the Council for adoption in paragraph 5 of its report on agenda item 7 (E/1988/93).

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1988/114).

30. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 7.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Public administration and finance

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1988/94)

31. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the recommendations of the First (Economic) Committee in its report on agenda item 8 (E/1988/94). In paragraph 14 of its report, the Committee had rec-

ommended to the Council for adoption a draft resolution entitled "Public administration and finance for development". In paragraph 15 of its report, the Committee had recommended to the Council for adoption a draft decision entitled "Ninth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance".

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1988/7).

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1988/115).

32. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 8.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Cartography

Report of the First (Economic) Committee (E/1988/95)

33. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decision on the standardization of geographical names which the First (Economic) Committee had recommended to the Council in paragraph 7 of its report on agenda item 9 (E/1988/95).

34. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt) said that his delegation's acceptance of paragraph (*c*) of the draft decision was premised on the assurances given by the Office of Legal Affairs that approval of the statute and rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names would raise no problems of a legal nature.

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1988/116).

35. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 9.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Narcotic drugs

Report of the Second (Social) Committee (E/1988/87)

36. The PRESIDENT called the attention of the Council to the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 13 (E/1988/87). In paragraph 25 of its report, the Committee had recommended to the Council for adoption nine draft resolutions, namely: I, "Preparation of an international convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances"; II, "International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking"; III, "Demand and supply of opiates for medical and scientific purposes"; IV, "Co-ordination of drug control activities in the African region"; V, "Reduction of the illicit supply of drugs"; VI, "Strengthening of co-operation and co-ordination in international drug control"; VII, "Enlargement of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East"; VIII, "Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies: Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean"; IX, "Improved measures for reduction of the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances".

37. He invited the Council to take action on draft resolutions I to IX.

Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and IX were adopted (resolutions 1988/8, 1988/9, 1988/10, 1988/11, 1988/12, 1988/13, 1988/14, 1988/15 and 1988/16).

38. The PRESIDENT said that in paragraph 26 of its report the Committee had recommended to the Council for adoption five draft decisions, namely: I, "Report of the International Narcotics Control Board"; II, "Duration and provisional agenda of the thirty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs"; III, "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs"; IV, "Conference of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of a convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances"; V, "Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1987".

39. He invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions.

Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted (decisions 1988/117, 1988/118 and 1988/119).

40. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Second (Social) Committee, said that although the Committee had recommended the adoption of draft decision IV, it had become apparent, following consultations with the Office of Legal Affairs, that the text should be revised by adding at the end the following phrase: "and that the Secretary-General should send invitations to participate in the Conference to those who were invited to participate in the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking."

Draft decision IV, as orally revised, was adopted (decision 1988/120).

41. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the Council had already taken note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board in draft decision I, no action should be taken on draft decision V.

It was so decided.

42. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 13.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

14th meeting

Thursday, 26 May 1988, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.14

AGENDA ITEM 14

Elections and nominations

STATISTICAL COMMISSION (E/1988/L.1)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect eight members of the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

2. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups: the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Hungary for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Brazil and Mexico for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

3. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees of the Groups of Asian, Eastern European and Latin American and Caribbean States was equal to the number of vacancies for those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kufuor (Ghana) and Ms. Arguillas (Philippines) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Norway	39
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	39
Canada	37
Netherlands	32
Turkey	2
Malta	1

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Canada, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.**

POPULATION COMMISSION (E/1988/L.1)

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect nine members of the Population Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

6. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had been informed by the Chairmen of the regional groups and by the Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity for the African States that the following candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups: Egypt for one of the two vacancies to be filled by African States; Bangladesh for the vacancy to be filled by an Asian State; the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Brazil and Colombia for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany and Turkey for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

7. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees endorsed by the regional groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation, and to postpone to a later stage the election of one nominee for the remaining vacancy to be filled from the Group of African States.

*It was so decided.**

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/1988/L.1)

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Commission for Social Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

9. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had been informed that the following States were candidates for the vacant posts for their regional groups: Cameroon for one of the two vacancies to be filled by African States; China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Philippines for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Poland for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Chile and Ecuador for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Finland, Malta and Spain for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

10. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees for the Groups of Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean and Western European and other States was equal to, and in the case of the Group of African States less than, the number of vacancies for their groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation, and to postpone to a later date the election of one nominee for the remaining vacancy to be filled by an African State.

*It was so decided.**

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* See decision 1988/150.

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Amorín (Uruguay) and Mr. Raichev (Bulgaria) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
China	49
Philippines	44
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	12

*Having obtained the required majority, China and the Philippines were elected members of the Commission for Social Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.**

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (E/1988/L.1)

12. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 14 members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

13. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had been informed that the following States were candidates for membership in the Commission: Ethiopia, Morocco and Swaziland for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; Bangladesh, Cyprus, India and the Syrian Arab Republic for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala and Panama for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Belgium, Canada and Sweden for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

14. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees from the Groups of African, Eastern European and Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies for those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect those nominees by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Asian States and three members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Cabral (Portugal) and Ms. Nduku Booto (Zaire) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect three members from the Group of Asian States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
India	45
Cyprus	39
Bangladesh	37
Syrian Arab Republic	32
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Bangladesh, Cyprus and India were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.**

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect three members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Colombia	46
Cuba	38
Panama	27
Costa Rica	26
Guatemala	11

*Having obtained the required majority, Colombia and Cuba were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.**

No other candidate having obtained the required majority, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Panama	31
Costa Rica	23

*Having obtained the required majority, Panama was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.**

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/1988/L.1)

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members of the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

17. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had been informed that the following States were candidates for membership on the Commission: Morocco, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan and Thailand for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Poland for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Brazil and Colombia for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Canada, France, Greece, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. The Secretariat had been informed that the candidatures of India (Group of Asian States) and Hungary (Group of Eastern European States) had been withdrawn.

18. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees for the Groups of African, Eastern European and Latin American and Caribbean States was equal to the number of vacancies for those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

19. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kufuor (Ghana) and Mr. Amorín (Uruguay) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect two members from the Group of Asian States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Japan	45
Thailand	25
Iraq	22
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	11

Having obtained the required majority, Japan was elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

No other candidates having obtained the required majority, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Thailand	27
Iraq	26

Having obtained the required majority, Thailand was elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989. *

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect three members from the Group of Western European and other States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Austria	29
France	29
Canada	28
Greece	27
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	26
Portugal	19

Having obtained the required majority, Austria, Canada and France were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989. *

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(E/1988/L.3)

20. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 19 members of the Commission on Human Settlements for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

21. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups: Lesotho, Malawi, Somalia, Swaziland and Tunisia for the five vacancies to be filled by African States; China, Indonesia, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic for the four vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Hungary and Yugoslavia for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Bolivia, Guatemala and Paraguay for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden for the five vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. Nepal had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States for a vacancy having a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1988. That election had been postponed from previous sessions.

22. The PRESIDENT said that since the number of candidates endorsed by each regional group for the four-year term of office was equal to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates endorsed by each group.

It was so decided. *

23. The PRESIDENT said that since no other candidates had been endorsed for the other vacancy to be filled by an Asian State, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Nepal by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

24. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since no candidate had been endorsed for the vacancy postponed from previous sessions for the Group of Western European and other States and having a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1991, that election should be further postponed.

It was so decided. *

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
(E/1988/L.10)

25. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 33 members of the Committee on Natural Resources for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

26. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been en-

dorsed by their regional groups: Botswana, Guinea-Bissau and the Sudan for three of the eight vacancies to be filled by African States; China and Japan for two of the five vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay and Uruguay for the eight vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; no candidates had been proposed for the four vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

27. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates endorsed by each regional group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates endorsed by each group and to postpone until a later date the election of five members from the African Group, three members from the Asian Group, one member from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and four members from the Group of Western European and other States.

It was so decided. *

28. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since no candidates had been endorsed by the Asian and Western European and other States Groups for the vacancies for which elections had been postponed from previous sessions, those elections should be further postponed.

It was so decided. *

COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (E/1988/L.2)

29. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

30. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups: Gabon and Swaziland for two of the four vacancies to be filled by African States; Cyprus and Indonesia for two of the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the vacancy to be filled by Eastern European States; Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba and Mexico for the four vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for the four vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

31. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates endorsed by each regional group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates endorsed by each group and to postpone until a later date the election of two members from the Group of African States and one member from the Group of Asian States.

It was so decided. *

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING (E/1988/L.6)

32. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 17 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

33. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups: Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda for three of the four vacancies to be filled by African States; Cyprus, Japan and India for three of the four vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Czechoslovakia for one of the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; and the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the four vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States. No candidates had been proposed for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States.

34. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates endorsed by each group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates endorsed by each group and to postpone until a later stage the election of one member from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Asian States, one member from the Group of Eastern European States and three members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

It was so decided. *

35. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since no candidates had been endorsed for the vacancies in the African, Asian, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean and Western European and other States Groups, for which elections had been postponed from previous sessions, those elections should be further postponed.

It was so decided. *

COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AWARD (E/1988/30)

36. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/201, such representatives were to be elected by the Council for a period of three years with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and the need to include those Member States that had made contributions to the Award.

37. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups: Rwanda for one of the three vacancies to be filled by African States; Japan and Pakistan for two of the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic for the vacancy to be filled by Eastern European States; Ecuador and Mexico for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Turkey for the vacancy to be filled by Western European and other States.

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*See decision 1988/150.

38. The PRESIDENT said that he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates endorsed by each group and to postpone until a later date elections to fill the three remaining vacancies, two for African States and one for Asian States.

It was so decided.[*]

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1988/46 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1 AND ADD.2 AND 3)

39. The PRESIDENT said that, owing to the resignations of Mr. Sviridov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. Daoudi (Syrian Arab Republic), the Council was required to elect two members to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1990. He drew attention, in that connection, to paragraph 4 of document E/1988/46/Add.2, in which it was stated that the Government of the Soviet Union had nominated Mr. Kouznetsov to replace Mr. Sviridov on the Committee. In the absence of other candidatures to fill that vacancy, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Mr. Kouznetsov for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1990.

It was so decided.[*]

40. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since no candidate had been proposed to complete Mr. Daoudi's term, the Council should postpone that election until a later date.

It was so decided.[*]

41. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect nine members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989. Information regarding the election was contained in documents E/1988/46 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, and Add.2 and 3. He had been informed that the Group of Asian States had endorsed the candidate nominated by the Government of Cyprus and that the Government of Afghanistan had withdrawn its candidate. In addition, the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed the candidates nominated by Bulgaria and Poland, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed the candidates nominated by Peru and Jamaica, and the Group of Western European and other States had endorsed the candidates nominated by Spain and France. The candidate nominated by Finland had been withdrawn.

42. Since the number of candidates from Asian, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean and Western European and other States equalled the number of vacancies open to candidates from those groups, and since those candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups, he would take it that, if he heard no objection, the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

Mr. Alvarez Vita (Peru), Mrs. Jiménez Butragueño (Spain), Mr. Mrachkov (Bulgaria), Mr. Neneman (Poland), Mr. Rattray (Jamaica), Mr. Sparsis (Cyprus) and Mr. Texier (France) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.[*]

43. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since there were more candidates from African States than there were vacancies to be filled by those States, the Council should proceed to elect two experts from African States by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Caprirolo-Cattoretti (Bolivia) and Ms. Chohan (Pakistan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Konate (Senegal)	32
Mr. Fofana (Guinea)	30
Mr. Aouami (Niger)	18
Mr. Apedo (Togo)	16

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Fofana (Guinea) and Mr. Konate (Senegal) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.[*]

COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL (E/1988/48 AND ADD.1 AND 2)

44. The PRESIDENT said that, owing to the death of Mr. López-Rey y Arrojo (Bolivia), the Council was required to elect one member to the Committee for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1990. He drew attention in that connection to paragraph 6 of document E/1988/48, in which it was indicated that the Government of Bolivia had nominated Mr. Miguel-Harb to fill the seat vacated by Mr. López-Reyy Arrojo. In the absence of other candidates, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Mr. Miguel-Harb for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1990.

It was so decided.[*]

45. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 13 members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989. Information pertinent to the election was contained in document E/1988/48 and Add.1 and 2. Since the number of candidates from Asian, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean and Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies open to those States, and since those candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups, he would take it, if he heard no objection, that the Council wished to elect the candidates nominated from those States by acclamation.

Mr. de la Cruz Ochoa (Cuba), Mr. De Silva (Sri Lanka), Mr. Faulkner (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. Gainer (United States of America), Mr. Khair (Jordan), Mr. Kubiak (Poland), Mr. Murad (Saudi Arabia), Mr. Polimeni (Italy) and Mr. Sánchez Méndez (Colombia) were elected members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.[*]

46. The PRESIDENT said that seven candidates had been nominated by African States to fill four vacancies for those States. The Secretariat had been informed by the secretariat of the Organization of African Unity that the Group of African States had endorsed the

candidates nominated by Algeria, the Central African Republic, the Niger and the Sudan.

47. Mr. IDRISS (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that when the Group had met to endorse the four candidates for the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, it had also received a reservation from Togo regarding the Group's endorsement of the candidate from the Niger.

48. Mr. ADJOYI (Observer for Togo) said that the individuals elected to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control were experts elected in their personal capacity. Members of the Council were free to vote for any candidate, regardless of endorsements by a specific regional group. Because his Government had nominated an expert to serve on the Committee, his delegation had been unable to support the decision by the African Group and would count on the support of its friends on the Council.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Dawson (United States of America) and Mr. Sanikidze (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect four members from the Group of African States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Nour (Algeria)	46
Mr. Shiddo (Sudan)	46
Mr. Mâmoudou (Niger)	35
Mr. Pandi (Central African Republic)	28
Mr. Akagbosu (Nigeria)	20
Mr. Polo (Togo)	19
Ms. Muli-Musiime (Kenya)	11

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Mâmoudou (Niger), Mr. Nour (Algeria), Mr. Pandi (Central African Republic) and Mr. Shiddo (Sudan) were elected members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1989. *

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION (E/1988/L.8)

49. The PRESIDENT said that information concerning the nomination of members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination was contained in document E/1988/L.8.

50. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Group of African States had endorsed the candidatures of Benin and Zambia; the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed the candidature of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed the candidatures of the Bahamas, Chile, Peru and Venezuela; and the Group of Western European and other States had endorsed the candidatures of France and the United States of America.

51. The PRESIDENT noted that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed a number of candidates greater than the number of vacancies for that Group. He suggested that the Council should follow precedent and nominate all the candidates submitted by the regional groups for election by the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

It was so decided. *

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (E/1988/L.9)

52. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to nominate 12 candidates for election to the World Food Council by the General Assembly at its forty-third session. Information concerning the nominations was contained in document E/1988/L.9.

53. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the candidatures of Cape Verde, Niger and Zimbabwe had been proposed by the Group of African States; those of Bangladesh, Cyprus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic had been presented by Asian States; those of the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had been proposed by the Group of Eastern European States; those of Guatemala, Ecuador and Paraguay had been proposed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and those of Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany had been proposed by the Group of Western European and other States.

54. The PRESIDENT noted that the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies in each Group, with the exception of the Group of Asian States, which had four candidates for two vacancies. He therefore suggested that the Council should nominate all candidates proposed or presented by the regional groups to the General Assembly, which would elect the appropriate number of candidates from each Group at its forty-third session.

It was so decided. *

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS (E/1988/97)

55. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/1988/97, regarding the application of China for full membership in the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, a request which the Secretary-General had approved. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to endorse the Secretary-General's decision.

It was so decided (decision 1988/149).

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

56. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium) requested that, when the Council considered draft resolution E/1988/L.28, as orally revised, under agenda item 4, representatives of the Department of Administration and Management and of the Office of Legal Affairs should be present.

57. The PRESIDENT assured the representative of Belgium that his request would be met.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

15th meeting

Thursday, 26 May 1988, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.15

AGENDA ITEM 14

Elections and nominations *(continued)*

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (E/1988/L.5)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 21 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 August 1988.

2. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had been informed that the following States were candidates for the Board: Cameroon, Egypt, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, the Sudan and Uganda for the six vacancies to be filled by African States; Bangladesh, Japan, Oman, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea for the five vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Bolivia, Mexico and Nicaragua for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for the five vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

3. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from the Groups of African, Asian, Eastern European and Latin American and Caribbean States was equal to the number of vacancies for those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot five members from the Group of Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Caprirolo-Cattoretti (Bolivia) and Ms. Chohan (Pakistan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	53
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Sweden	45
Italy	43
France	41
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	37
United States of America	36
Netherlands	26

*Having obtained the required majority, France, Italy, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 August 1988.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (E/1988/L.21)

5. The PRESIDENT said that in resolution 42/130 the General Assembly had decided to increase the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 41 to 43 members. The candidates were Guatemala, Pakistan and Somalia. He invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two States to fill the two new seats.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kitaev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. Dawson (United States of America) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Somalia	49
Pakistan	47
Guatemala	8

*Having obtained the required majority, Pakistan and Somalia were elected members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.**

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (E/1988/L.4)

6. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for a three-year term beginning on the first day of the organizational meeting of the Governing Council in February 1989.

7. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Group of African States wished to postpone the election in respect of the vacancies to be filled by African States until the following day. The other groups had informed the Secretariat that the following States were candidates for the Governing Council: Cyprus, Pakistan and the Philippines for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States and Yugoslavia; Romania for the vacancy to be filled by an

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*See decision 1988/150.

Eastern European State; Bolivia and Brazil for the vacancy to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Spain and Sweden for the six vacancies to be filled by members of the Group of Western European and other States.

8. The PRESIDENT said that, with the exception of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by each group. He would, therefore, take it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

9. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to postpone until the following day the election in respect of the vacancies to be filled by African States.

It was so decided. *

10. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Arguillas (Philippines) and Ms. Nduku Booto (Zaire) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Brazil	29
Bolivia	24

Having obtained the required majority, Brazil was elected a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for a three-year term beginning on the first day of the organizational meeting of the Governing Council in February 1989. *

COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES (E/1988/L.7)

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

12. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had been informed that the following States were candidates for the Committee: the Niger for the vacancy to be filled by African States; Colombia, Cuba and Guatemala for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American and Caribbean States; and Denmark and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the two vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

13. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates endorsed by the Groups of African and Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies for those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the candidates by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

14. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kufuor (Ghana) and Mr. Cabral (Portugal) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Colombia	43
Cuba	43
Guatemala	15

Having obtained the required majority, Colombia and Cuba were elected members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989. *

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (E/1988/34)

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to appoint five members of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to fill the vacancies that would arise on 30 June 1988. Information concerning the membership of the Board of Trustees and the names of candidates and curricula vitae of the persons nominated by States were contained in document E/1988/34.

16. Since the Groups of Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States had nominated and endorsed one person each, the President took it that the Council agreed to appoint Gule Afruz Mahbub (Bangladesh), Elena Atanassova Lagadinova (Bulgaria), Fabiola Cuvi Ortíz (Ecuador) and Kristin Tornes (Norway) by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

17. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of African States.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Chohan (Pakistan) and Mr. Amorín (Uruguay) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	53
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Awa Diallo (Mali)	35
Olivia N. Muchena (Zimbabwe)	10
Victoria N. Okobi (Nigeria)	6
Lydia P. Makhubu (Swaziland)	1
Jane G. Dlamini (Swaziland)	0
Christabel Motsa (Swaziland)	0

Lindiwe A. Nhlabatsi
(Swaziland) 0

*Having obtained the required majority, Awa Diallo (Mali) was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women for a three-year term beginning on 1 July 1988.**

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*concluded*) (E/1988/66, E/1988/84 and E/1988/86)

18. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark), reporting on the outcome of informal consultations with interested parties on the question of the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the Council, concerning assistance relating to Afghanistan, which had been the subject of letters to the Secretary-General from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan (E/1988/66, E/1988/86) and Pakistan (E/1988/84), said that the informal consultations had led him to believe that there was a general consensus in the Council that, in recognition of the needs of the people of Afghanistan, the issue of assistance should be considered at the Council's second regular session of 1988 under the item entitled "Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance".

19. The PRESIDENT said that, having received the report of Mr. Finn Jønck, Vice-President of the Council, on the outcome of informal consultations which he had been conducting under item 1 of the agenda, it was his feeling that in the light of the Geneva Agreements of 14 April 1988, the Council might wish to welcome the steps initiated by the Secretary-General to develop proposals for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction relating to Afghanistan, and to invite the Secretary-General to apprise the Council at its second regular session of 1988, under the item entitled "Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance", of the activities of the Co-ordinator for United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance relating to Afghanistan.

20. He announced that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of the questions falling under agenda item 1.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Advancement of women

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1988/90 AND ADD.1)

21. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to paragraph 55 of part I (E/1988/90) of the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 11. In that paragraph the Committee recommended to the Council for adoption 15 draft resolutions, namely: I, "Improvement of the status of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system"; II, "Programme planning and activities to advance the status of women"; III, "Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1990 to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women"; IV, "Women and peace in Central America"; V, "Updating of the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* in the light of the deterioration in the status of women in the developing countries"; VI, "Establishment of a comprehensive reporting system to monitor, review and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women"; VII, "Women and children under *apartheid*"; VIII, "Women and children in Namibia"; IX, "Situation of Palestinian women"; X, "Elimination of discrimination against women in accordance with the aims of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women"; XI, "Efforts to eradicate violence against women within the family and society"; XII, "Participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation"; XIII, "Rural women and development"; XIV, "National machinery for the advancement of women"; XV, "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women".

22. He invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I, II, III, IV, V AND VI

Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV, V and VI were adopted (resolutions 1988/17, 1988/18, 1988/19, 1988/20, 1988/21 and 1988/22).

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

23. Mrs. BYRNE (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that, regrettably, her delegation would have to vote against draft resolution VII; the draft resolution singled out national liberation movements for praise but neglected the real heroes of the struggle against *apartheid*, namely trade unions, Christian, Jewish and Muslim organizations, women's groups, small businessmen and countless other grass-roots organizations.

At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution VII.

In favour: Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal.

Draft decision VII was adopted by 44 votes to 2, with 8 abstentions (resolution 1988/23).

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

24. Mrs. BYRNE (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that her delegation would abstain in the vote on draft resolution

VIII. The United States was a member of the Namibia contact group and therefore did not comment on the substance of resolutions on Namibia in the Council. The United States firmly supported Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution VIII.

In favour: Australia, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Draft decision VIII was adopted by 44 votes to none, with 9 abstentions (resolution 1988/24).

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

25. The PRESIDENT asked whether any delegation wished to make a statement before the vote.

26. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel) said that draft resolution IX was, on all counts, biased, polemical, unbalanced and counter-productive. Once again, Israel had been singled out and held responsible for a situation which it had not created. The draft resolution contained not one single word about the responsibility of the Arab countries which, by attacking Israel in 1948, had created the Palestinian refugee problem. It was Arab leaders who had kept Arab women and children in refugee camps for more than 40 years as pawns in their political warfare against Israel.

27. Mr. AL-KHATANY (Saudi Arabia), speaking on a point of order, said that the Council was currently voting and no observer had the right to interfere in the voting process.

28. The PRESIDENT said that the voting had not yet begun; he was giving the floor to members of the Council and observers, who wished to speak before the vote.

29. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia), speaking on a point of order, said that in the voting process, explanations of vote before or after the vote had to be made in accordance with the rules of procedure. A statement by an observer could not possibly be an explanation of vote.

30. The PRESIDENT said that the Council's practice had always been to give an opportunity to all members of the Council and other Members of the United Nations to speak before the vote. The Council was not abandoning its practice in giving an observer the opportunity to speak before the vote. There was nothing in the rules of procedure to prevent the President from giving the floor to a representative of a State which was not a member of the Council. Under rule 72 the Council could invite any Member of the United Nations that was not a member of the Council to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.

31. Mr. AL-KHATANY (Saudi Arabia), speaking on a point of order, said that no observer or member of the Council had the right to make statements in the Council attacking Arab leaders or Arab countries.

32. The PRESIDENT said that in the Council, as in all United Nations bodies, the practice was to allow freedom of expression on all subjects. It was understood that delegations which so wished could exercise their right of reply.

33. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia), speaking on a point of order, said that under rule 62 of the rules of procedure representatives could make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of their votes before the voting had commenced or after the voting had been completed. He requested the President to seek the opinion of the Legal Counsel.

34. The PRESIDENT said that when he had given the floor to the observer for Israel, he had said that he would give the floor to delegations wishing to make statements before the vote, and had not specified that such statements should be in explanation of vote.

35. Mr. BORG-OLIVIER (Observer for Malta), speaking on a point of order, said that he supported the President's position; the Council had not yet started the actual voting process and the President had invited delegations to make statements before the vote. The Charter gave very extensive rights to all Members of the United Nations, whether or not they were members of a given body, to make statements, and in practice non-members of the Council had always participated fully in its work, except in the actual voting.

36. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan) said that when the representative of Israel had asked for the floor he had referred to a specific draft resolution after the President had announced that the Council had begun the process of voting and had informed the Council of the results of the vote in the Second (Social) Committee. When the Observer for Israel had begun his statement he had not indicated that he was making a general statement.

37. The PRESIDENT reiterated that he had invited members of the Council and of the United Nations to make statements, but had not specified that they had to be explanations of vote before the vote.

38. Mr. FLEISCHHAUER (Under-Secretary-General, The Legal Counsel) said that the President's assessment and conduct of the proceedings was correct and was in keeping with the Council's rules of procedure. The Council was not yet in process of voting, and the President had asked whether any delegation wished to make a statement; that was within the realm of rule 72 of the rules of procedure. The President had also referred to the existence of the right of reply, which gave an opportunity to members to correct any false impressions that might have been made.

39. Mr. AL-KHATANY (Saudi Arabia), speaking on a point of order, said that there was a precedent in the Council; in 1985 there had been a similar situation and the then Legal Counsel had given the Council a different interpretation, based on the Council's practice. The then President of the Council had insisted, as a compromise, that the observer for Israel should limit his statement strictly to the subject under consideration. The Council was currently considering the situation of Palestinian women, not the refugee problem which, as everyone knew, had been caused by Israel. The Ob-

server for Israel had been permitted to speak, but when he exceeded the limits and began attacking leaders of States represented in the Council, the situation had changed, and it had become necessary to apply the rules strictly. His delegation would not have any objection to the Observer for Israel continuing his statement in accordance with past practice, as long as he did not attack leaders of States represented on the Council.

40. Mr. WULFFTEN PALTHE (Observer for the Netherlands) said that the Council was considering for the first time the report of the Second (Social) Committee, which contained a number of draft resolutions and draft decisions. Until the President called for a vote, the Council was conducting a general debate on the report, and any observer had the right to express himself on the contents of the report.

41. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan) said that the explanation given by the President, supported by the Legal Counsel, was that there were two distinct stages before the voting process. It seemed that there was a stage when members of the Council had the right to make general comments and then a stage in which they had the right to make explanations of vote.

42. The PRESIDENT said that since the Council was considering the report of the Second (Social) Committee it was difficult to know ahead of time if speakers intended to refer specifically to draft resolutions or make general comments on the report or speak in explanation of vote. In order to save time he was giving the floor to delegations to make statements without specifying what form such statements should take. When giving the floor to observers it was understood that they were not explaining their votes.

43. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel) welcomed the President's wise ruling. Continuing his statement, he said that Israel could not be blamed for the tragic situation of Palestinian refugees. The draft resolution did not mention the continuous Arab belligerency, including the war in 1967, which had brought Judea, Samaria and Gaza and the Palestinian population, including those who lived in refugee camps in those areas, under Israeli administration.

44. In a bizarre twist of justice, the United Nations had repeatedly denounced Israel's many attempts to alleviate the plight of the Palestinian population, including women and children. As recently as the forty-second session of the General Assembly, a resolution had been passed calling on Israel to refrain from taking any action that would lead to the removal and resettlement of Palestinian refugees. Israel could not be condemned for a tragic situation when the United Nations itself was seeking to prevent Israel from improving the conditions of Palestinian refugees.

45. There were millions of women refugees in the world and tens of millions of women and children who were in need of the most basic human requirements. There was no reason to single out Israel for criticism. The resolution, if adopted, would do nothing to ameliorate the plight of those women and children it supposedly sought to benefit. It simply called for the establishment of an investigatory commission which was clearly beyond the Council's mandate, and thereby set a dangerous precedent. His delegation believed that there were more appropriate and more judicious ways of spending United Nations funds than on an investigatory commission with which Israel would in any case not co-operate.

46. Israel strongly believed that the work of the Council should not be politicized and that the Council should refrain from being dragged into the political conflicts of the Middle East. He therefore urged members of the Council to reject draft resolution IX.

47. Mrs. BYRNE (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that her delegation would vote against draft resolution IX, which was poorly drafted and contributed nothing to the search for a solution to the problems of the Middle East. The text was purely political in intent and content and reflected an unfortunate double standard whereby Israel was held responsible for all the woes of the area while being denied the right to exist in safety and peace.

48. Mr. YONIS (Iraq), speaking on a point of order, said that it was his understanding that the Council was considering a draft resolution and not hearing explanations of vote; the Council should therefore give every delegation an opportunity to make statements of a general nature and then request representatives to explain their vote. He reserved the right to speak in the general debate that the Observer for the Israeli entity had started. It was regrettable that the Observer for Israel had attacked Arab leaders and referred to the tragedy created by the Israeli entity in 1948. There would therefore have to be a discussion of that very important question, namely, the appalling situation of women in Palestine from 1948 to the present day, and it would be necessary to review all the tragedies created by Israel over the years.

49. The PRESIDENT said that he could give the floor to members of the Council and to observers to make a statement, either on general matters or in explanation of vote. The representative of the United States had taken the opportunity to speak in explanation of vote.

50. Mr. AL-KHATANY (Saudi Arabia), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his delegation would support draft resolution IX because everyone knew what Israel had been doing in the occupied territories since 1948. Israel was perpetrating acts of terrorism against Palestinian people; cases of beating, burning and of persons being buried alive had been reported in the press and shown on television, yet the representative of the occupying Power arrogantly claimed that Palestinian women were living well in Palestine. The investigatory commission should visit the occupied territories and determine whether Israel's position was true. It could then inform the Council as to whether Israel was in fact respecting the human rights of Palestinian women in Palestine. He called on all States which opposed injustice and oppression and respected human rights and which knew of the tragedy of women in Palestine to support the draft resolution.

51. Mr. YONIS (Iraq) said that the representative of the Israeli entity had failed to divert the attention of the members of the Council from the matter before them, since he had given them the opportunity to discuss once again the tragic events which had occurred in 1948.

52. He would appreciate clarification from the Legal Counsel as to the nature of the humanitarian principles mentioned in the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution and the reason for their inclusion.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution IX.

In favour: Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Colombia, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zaire.

Draft resolution IX was adopted by 39 votes to 1, with 13 abstentions (resolution 1988/25).

53. Mrs. COLL (Ireland), speaking in explanation of vote, said that difficulties with the thrust and wording of a number of paragraphs had prevented her delegation from voting in favour of the draft resolution, despite the deep concern with which it viewed events in the occupied Arab territories and its support for the reaffirmation, in the approved text, of the importance of safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian population.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS X, XI, XII, XIII AND XIV

Draft resolutions X, XI, XII, XIII and XIV were adopted (resolutions 1988/26, 1988/27, 1988/28, 1988/29 and 1988/30).

DRAFT RESOLUTION XV

54. Mr. VIK (Norway), speaking also on behalf of Denmark and the observer delegations of Finland, Iceland and Sweden, said that it was the clear understanding of those delegations that paragraph 4 of draft resolution XV did not constitute any decision or recommendation by the Council to change the status of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women or the character of its relationship with other United Nations organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme.

55. The Nordic countries were very attached to the concept of the Institute as a think-tank and catalyst rather than as an operational organization, and they would be very concerned if the last part of paragraph 4 was interpreted as signalling a change in that concept.

56. They expected that no decision or changes would be made until the issues had been presented in a comprehensive manner, with a clear recommendation by the Secretary-General, and Governments had been given ample time to consider the implications.

Draft resolution XV was adopted (resolution 1988/31).

57. Mr. STUART (Australia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that he was pleased that it had been possible to adopt the draft resolution without a vote. The Institute had a significant role to play in the international advancement of women.

58. He was concerned, however, to see that Norway, the major donor to the Institute and a member of its Board of Trustees, had not been able to join the list of sponsors.

59. He agreed that paragraph 4 should not be regarded as authorizing any major change in the status or operations of the Institute.

60. The PRESIDENT said that in paragraph 56 of part I (E/1988/90) of the report of the Second (Social) Committee, four draft decisions were recommended to the Council for adoption, namely: I, "System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women: equality, development and peace"; II, "System-wide co-ordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development"; III, "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-third session of the Commission"; IV, "Mandate of the office of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat of the United Nations".

61. He invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions.

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DRAFT DECISIONS I, II AND III

Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted (decisions 1988/121, 1988/122 and 1988/123).

DRAFT DECISION IV

62. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium) said that his delegation saw no reason to maintain the office of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat until the end of the biennium 1988-1989, as proposed. At its forty-second session the General Assembly had endorsed the decision of the Secretary-General to extend the Co-ordinator's term of office for six months, with the assurance that the Co-ordinator's work programme was about to be implemented. Perhaps those assurances could be reiterated and the Council informed whether the plan of action could, in fact, be implemented without the proposed extension. He would also appreciate it if the Legal Counsel would comment on the legal and budgetary problems which might arise if the Council took a decision which conflicted with one taken by the General Assembly.

63. Mr. GOMEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, Controller), reiterating a statement made by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management in the Second (Social) Committee on 13 May 1988, recalled that the question of an extension had been discussed earlier by the General Assembly.

64. In a statement to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the Under-Secretary-General had provided further clarifications in the matter, emphasizing that the responsibility for implementing the policies and procedures developed through the efforts of the Co-ordinator fell to the Office of Human Resources Management.

65. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 42/62, in which the Secretary-General was requested to extend the Co-ordinator's term for a satisfactory period to ensure the continued implementation of the action programme, and General Assembly resolution 42/220 C, in which note was taken of the Secretary-General's decision to extend the office of the Co-ordinator for six months, the term had been extended.

At the same time, procedures had been set up to establish a focal point within the Office of Human Resources Management. It had been expected that the tasks of implementation and monitoring would be accomplished within the existing resources of that Office, thus no funds had been requested or voted for the biennium 1988-1989. Since its extension, the office of the Co-ordinator was being funded from dwindling resources in the Secretariat. As of 1 July 1988 such arrangements would no longer be possible.

66. The question of an extension had arisen again following the thirty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission had recommended that the Secretary-General should extend the mandate of the office of the Co-ordinator for the biennium 1988-1989, should review the situation at the end of that period and should continue to take the necessary measures in order to ensure the continued implementation of the action programme for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat.

67. The Secretariat had indicated that the programme budget implications of the proposed extension would be $US 336,000 for three posts—one at the Assistant Secretary-General level, one at the P-5 level and one at the General Services level—for the remaining 18 months of the 1988-1989 budget.

68. The Secretary-General had reviewed the situation and had decided to transfer the functions related to the extension of the mandate of the office of the Co-ordinator to the Office of Human Resources Management, as of 1 July 1988. A senior officer within the Office of Human Resources Management would be designated as the focal point to ensure that the 47 recommendations which the Secretary-General had approved were implemented promptly and effectively, and to monitor the situation of women in the Secretariat.

69. In reaching that decision, the Secretary-General had also taken into consideration recommendation 15 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations,[22] endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, requiring the Secretary-General to reduce the number of posts at Assistant Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General levels by 25 per cent over a three-year period ending in December 1989.

70. The Secretary-General was deeply committed to the question of equality between men and women in the Secretariat, and would do everything in his power to ensure that the work programme which he had presented to the General Assembly was carried out.

71. Mr. FLEISCHHAUER (Under-Secretary-General, The Legal Counsel), responding to a question by the representative of Belgium, said that the question of extending the mandate of the office of the Co-ordinator fell into the area of personnel and budgetary matters, for which, as set out in Article 101, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretary-General acted as the Organization's chief administrator, within the regulations laid down by the General Assembly.

72. Recalling that the General Assembly had recently taken action in the matter by adopting resolution 42/220 C, he said that the Secretary-General had been given discretion in decision-making and guidelines to consider in reaching a decision.

73. Nevertheless, the Council, which had a clear interest in the matter, was not condemned to silence. If the Council addressed a request to the Secretary-General, then that request would become one of the factors which would have to be taken into account.

74. Mr. FRIEDRICH (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation would abstain on the draft decision. While it was of the opinion that the Co-ordinator had achieved considerable results, and that the office of the Co-ordinator should be further strengthened, the additional expenditures which the proposed extension entailed hardly seemed necessary.

75. Mr. BIRCH (United Kingdom) said that his delegation strongly supported the efforts to improve the status of women in the Secretariat. However, there were other issues at stake. The Council could not ignore the serious budgetary implications of the proposed extension. Members of the Council should weigh carefully whether the cost of maintaining the posts for the remaining 18 months of the biennium 1988-1989 could be justified at a time when the Organization found itself in a critical financial situation. It was also necessary to take full account of the recommendation contained in General Assembly resolution 41/213 to reduce the number of posts at the Assistant Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General levels by 25 per cent.

76. If the Council approved the draft decision, it would be taking upon itself responsibilities which rightly lay with the Secretary-General and the General Assembly. If his understanding was correct, the Council could only make a recommendation. In his delegation's view, the recommendation should not be to extend the mandate. Accordingly, his delegation would abstain in the voting.

77. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that his delegation had three reservations. While it supported the idea of improving the status of women within the United Nations Secretariat, extending the Co-ordinator's mandate would have financial implications. At a time of financial crisis, it was inappropriate to ask the Secretary-General to retain certain posts. There was also a conflict between the six-month extension decided by the General Assembly and the Council's request for a two-year extension. His delegation therefore saw no justification for the draft decision and would abstain in the vote.

78. Mr. BOLOT (France) said that his delegation would abstain in the vote, particularly in the light of the views expressed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance and by the Under-Secretary-General, The Legal Counsel. His delegation was convinced that much remained to be done to achieve complete equality of treatment between men and women in the Secretariat; it was grateful to the Co-ordinator and her staff for the results achieved so far. The Secretary-General must now ensure that no discrimination could occur against women in the Secretariat and would have to propose appropriate measures at a later stage if the new organization he had established did not produce the desired results. His delegation did not wish to interfere with the management of the Organization, which came within the competence of the Secretary-General.

79. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) said that the issue was a personnel item which should be dealt with only in

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[22] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/41/49).

the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly. The Commission on the Status of Women and Member States had the right to request the Secretary-General to ensure continuity in the implementation of the action programme for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat; however, neither the Commission nor the Council could overrule the resolutions of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General was the chief administrative officer of the Organization and the Council should not undermine his authority or cast doubt on his judgement. Under recommendation 41 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts,[22] the Secretary-General was requested to protect the authority of the official in charge of personnel. At a time when the Office of Human Resources Management was to be strengthened, the Council should not take any decision which might erode its authority. The United Nations was facing an unprecedented crisis and the delegation of Portugal did not wish to compound the problems by interfering in an area which was within the exclusive competence of the Secretary-General; it would therefore abstain in the vote.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.

16th meeting

Friday, 27 May 1988, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.16

AGENDA ITEM 11

Advancement of women

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (*concluded*) (E/1988/90 AND ADD.1)

DRAFT DECISION IV (*concluded*)

1. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote on draft decision IV recommended by the Second (Social) Committee in part I (E/1988/90) of its report, praised the efforts that had been made to improve the status of women in the Secretariat by the Secretary-General and the Co-ordinator appointed for that purpose. Efficiency had been much discussed during the past year, particularly in the Council, and it was in a spirit of efficiency that the Co-ordinator's plan of action, approved by the General Assembly at its forty-second session, was currently being implemented. Draft decision IV, however, ran counter to the resolution adopted by the Assembly; consequently, his delegation would abstain in the vote on it.

2. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada) said that her delegation fully agreed with the view expressed by the Legal Counsel at the 15th meeting that adoption of draft decision IV did not conflict with General Assembly resolution 42/220 C. Moreover, as paragraph 2 of that resolution invited the Secretary-General to "review the situation at the end of the six-month period", i.e. in June 1988, she had been surprised to learn that the review had already been concluded. That resolution also directed the Secretary-General to take into account the views expressed by Member States during the forty-second session of the General Assembly, many of which had supported the continuation of the Co-ordinator's mandate for the duration of the current biennium. The Secretary-General was also to take into account the views of other relevant intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women. In fact, the draft decision now before the Council had been adopted by the Commission after having been sponsored by some 20 delegations representing all regional groups. Moreover, the Second (Social) Committee of the Council had also recommended by consensus that the draft decision be adopted by the Council in plenary meeting. During the Committee's deliberations, no Member State had expressed any difficulty with the draft decision; she was therefore surprised at the difficulties being raised at the current stage by delegations.

3. As her delegation expected that the Secretary-General would take the views of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Second (Social) Committee of the Council into account when he reviewed the situation in June 1988, it would vote in favour of draft decision IV.

4. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia) said it was obvious that no consensus existed on draft decision IV.

5. He was also somewhat concerned at the statement made by the Controller at the 15th meeting that the Co-ordinator's post was being funded from resources generated within the Secretariat, since many United Nations activities to which the African States accorded priority were being curtailed precisely for lack of resources.

6. It was unfortunate that the Council was obliged to vote on the issue of the status of women in the Secretariat, particularly since it had been pointed out that the Office of Human Resources Management could deal with the matter effectively. His delegation would abstain in the vote on the draft decision.

7. Mr. KHODAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic and Poland, said that those delegations shared the doubts expressed by many other delegations. Taking into account the statement by the Controller that extension of the mandate of the Co-ordinator was unjustified and unnecessary, and bearing in mind the opinion expressed by the Legal Counsel, the delegations on whose behalf he was speaking intended to abstain in the vote on draft decision IV.

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision IV.

In favour: Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guinea, India, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zaire.

Draft decision IV was adopted by 18 votes to none, with 31 abstentions.

8. Mr. STUART (Australia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's identification of the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat as a priority for the current biennium. Since the identification of priorities was an essential step in the process of budgetary reform, his delegation had voted in favour of the draft decision. Having noted the advice of the Legal Counsel, his delegation believed that the Council's decision should be taken into consideration by the Secretary-General, following the review called for in General Assembly resolution 42/220 C.

9. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the draft decision entitled "Enlargement of the Commission on the Status of Women" and contained in part II (E/1988/90/Add.1) of the report of the Second (Social) Committee. Adoption of this draft decision was also recommended by the Committee.

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1988/125).

10. Mr. BEN HAMIDA (Observer for Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group had supported the idea of expanding the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women for several years, given the increase in the number of States Members of the United Nations and the need to deal more effectively and in a more comprehensive manner with issues relating to women, particularly in the developing countries. Consequently, the Group had consistently supported Economic and Social Council decision 1987/23, which had been adopted by consensus and acknowledged the need for such an expansion.

11. Any enlargement of the Commission must respect the principle of equitable geographical distribution. That issue must be settled by the Economic and Social Council no later than early 1990, as the Council was the only forum with the authority under the Charter of the United Nations to do so. Any decision taken, however, must not deviate from the Council's rules of procedure, nor could any exceptions be made or unjustified preconditions set. For its part, the Group of 77 would spare no effort in promoting a consensus on that issue. In that connection, the consultations referred to in paragraph 3 of the decision just adopted would be highly useful in affording a practical follow-up to the decision. Those consultations should be held when appropriate—for example, during the forty-third session of the General Assembly or at the Council's organizational session for 1989. The Group of 77 was prepared to play an active part in those consultations.

12. In view of the foregoing considerations, the Group of 77 had joined in the consensus on the draft decision.

13. Mr. FAROUQUE (Sri Lanka), said that, had his delegation been present at the time of voting, it would have abstained.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Human rights *(concluded)** (E/1988/12 and Corr.1, E/1988/89/Add.1)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE *(concluded)**

PART II (E/1988/89/ADD.1)

14. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider part II (E/1988/89/Add.1) of the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 10. In paragraph 63 of its report, the Committee recommended 12 draft resolutions for adoption by the Council, namely: I, "Measures to combat racism and racial discrimination and the role of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities"; II, "The right to food"; III, "Working Group on Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities"; IV, "Study of the problem of discrimination against indigenous populations"; V, "Draft declaration of principles on the rights of indigenous populations"; VI, "Proposal to proclaim an international year of the world's indigenous populations"; VII, "Summary or arbitrary executions"; VIII, "Question of a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms"; IX, "Question of a convention on the rights of the child"; X, "Infringements of trade union rights in South Africa"; XI, "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights"; XII, "Realization of the right to adequate housing".

15. The PRESIDENT explained that draft resolutions I to IX had been initially recommended to the Council for adoption by the Commission on Human Rights in the report on its forty-fourth session. They were adopted by the Second Committee without amendment.

16. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel) recalled the position taken by Israel at the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights. Once again, unfounded criticism was being levelled at Israel by countries which violated the most basic human rights and freedoms.

17. The biased and distorted accusations in Commission resolutions 1988/1 A and B, 1988/2 and 1988/3 reflected the exploitation of the United Nations by certain Arab delegations. The Organization's indiscriminate condemnation of Israel contrasted with its failure to review human rights abuses in the region's non-democratic countries. Such a politicized approach hurt its image more than it did Israel. The Economic and Social Council must restore balance and fairness to its investigations into human rights abuses.

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*Resumed from the 10th meeting.

18. At a time of increasing attempts to distort, deny and even dismiss the Holocaust, the Commission was to be praised for having adopted resolution 1988/47 on the prosecution and punishment of all war criminals and persons who have committed crimes against humanity.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I AND II

Draft resolutions I and II were adopted (resolutions 1988/32 and 1988/33).

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

19. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolution III, entitled "Report of the Working Group on Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities".

20. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that the Group of 77 had concluded that the name of the Working Group did not accurately reflect its task, which was to work for the abolition of slavery.

21. The PRESIDENT noted that, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1988/42, the Commission on Human Rights had endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that the name of the Working Group on Slavery should be changed to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

22. Mr. NYAMEKE (Centre for Human Rights) explained that the change in the name of the Working Group had been intended to reflect the nature of the issues it currently dealt with. As slavery in the traditional sense had been abolished under various international instruments, the Working Group currently dealt with such slavery-like practices as *apartheid*, child prostitution and child labour.

23. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that, while he was aware that the name of the Working Group had been changed, he nevertheless believed that it ought to be modified further to reflect the Working Group's task of combating or abolishing contemporary forms of slavery.

24. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) said that, while he could appreciate the legitimate concerns of the Egyptian and other delegations, the situation was a complex one. He proposed that those concerns should be conveyed to the Working Group, to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and to the Commission on Human Rights so that they might take whatever action they deemed appropriate.

25. Mr. GALAL (Egypt), replying to a question from the President, said that the course of action proposed by the representative of Belgium was acceptable to him.

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 1988/34).

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IV TO XII

Draft decisions IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII were adopted (resolutions 1988/35, 1988/36, 1988/37, 1988/38, 1988/39, 1988/40, 1988/41, 1988/42 and 1988/43).

26. The PRESIDENT said that in paragraph 64 of part II (E/1988/89/Add.1) of the report of the Second (Social) Committee 21 draft decisions were recommended for adoption by the Council, namely: I, "Use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination"; II, "Situation of human rights in Albania"; III, "General decision concerning the establishment of a working group of the Commission on Human Rights to examine situations referred to the Commission under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and those situations of which the Commission is seized"; IV, "The right to development"; V, "Extension of the mandates of special rapporteurs on thematic issues in the field of human rights"; VI, "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: report of the Special Rapporteur"; VII, "Assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights"; VIII, "Assistance to Haiti in the field of human rights"; IX, "Situation in Equatorial Guinea"; X, "Study on the significance of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements for the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous populations"; XI, "Situation of human rights in El Salvador"; XII, "Question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan"; XIII, "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran"; XIV, "Prevention of the disappearance of children"; XV, "Appointment of a delegation in accordance with Commission on Human Rights decision 1988/106"; XVI, "Question of human rights in Chile"; XVII, "Organization of the work of the Commission on Human Rights for its forty-fifth session"; XVIII, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief"; XIX, "Right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation; XX, "Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-fourth session"; XXI, "Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of human rights".

27. He explained that draft decisions I to XVIII were initially recommended to the Council for adoption in the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-fourth session (E/1988/12 and Corr.1, chap. I, sect. B) as draft decisions 1 to 6 and 8 to 19; these draft decisions were not amended in the Second (Social) Committee.

28. The PRESIDENT reminded the members that, at its 10th meeting, the Council adopted draft decision 7 of the Commission, entitled "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances".

29. He invited the Council to take action on draft decisions I to XXI which the Second (Social) Committee, in part II (E/1988/89/Add.1, para. 64) of its report, had recommended to the Council for adoption.

DRAFT DECISION I

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision I.

In favour: Belize, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Colombia, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Oman.

Draft decision I was adopted by 39 votes to 13, with 2 abstentions (decision 1988/126).

30. Mr. STUART (Australia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that, at the forty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights, his delegation had opposed the decision to appoint a special rapporteur on the use of mercenaries, on the grounds that it represented a duplication of effort and a waste of scarce United Nations resources which could better be used to support the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. Australia still opposed that decision and had therefore abstained in the vote on draft decision 1.

31. Mr. AL-ZADGALI (Oman) said that his delegation had abstained because the question of the use of mercenaries had already been taken up in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly. Oman did not wish to see duplication in the work of United Nations bodies, especially in view of the Organization's financial crisis.

DRAFT DECISION II

32. Mrs. COLL (Ireland), speaking in explanation of vote, said that the background and purpose of draft decision II were unlike those of any other decision adopted by the Economic and Social Council. There had been no dialogue between the Commission on Human Rights and Albania and, as a result, the material contained in the dossier before the Commission had remained unclarified. Thus, the circumstances which in other instances had permitted the Commission to register sufficient improvement in the human rights situation for a case to be discontinued, were absent. Her delegation had supported resolution 1988/17 of the Commission on Human Rights, which recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the confidential material concerning Albania which had been before the Commission, under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), should no longer be restricted. Ireland would vote in favour of draft decision II and urged delegations which valued the credibility of the procedure established under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) to do likewise.

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision II.

In favour: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Poland, Syrian Arab Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Belize, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Oman, Panama, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire.

Draft decision II was rejected by 13 votes to 11, with 29 abstentions.

DRAFT DECISIONS III TO XII

Draft decisions III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII were adopted (decisions 1988/127, 1988/128, 1988/129, 1988/130, 1988/131, 1988/132, 1988/133, 1988/134, 1988/135 and 1988/136).

DRAFT DECISION XIII

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision XIII.

In favour: Australia, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Against: Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining: China, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, India, Liberia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Draft decision XIII was adopted by 24 votes to 8, with 15 abstentions (decision 1988/137).

33. Mr. MADARSHAHI (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in explanation of vote, regretted that purely political considerations had once again dominated the Council's decision on the so-called "Human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran". The Islamic Republic of Iran had made constructive proposals to the United Nations with a view to depoliticizing the issue. However, certain quarters had chosen to ignore those proposals and had decided to base their resolutions on self-made, self-publicized and self-serving allegations. His delegation totally rejected resolution 1988/69 of the Commission on Human Rights and would never accept any process based on political considerations.

DRAFT DECISIONS XIV TO XVII

Draft decisions XIV, XV, XVI and XVII were adopted (decisions 1988/138, 1988/139, 1988/140 and 1988/141).

DRAFT DECISION XVIII

Draft decision XVIII was adopted (decision 1988/142).

DRAFT DECISION XIX

34. Mr. THIOUNN PRASITH (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea) said that the adoption by the Council of draft decision XIX would help to reverse what Hanoi had labelled an "irreversible" situation in Kampuchea. Viet Nam's pursuit of Ho Chi Minh's idea of an Indochinese federation had brought that country to a situation of famine, forcing it to seek assistance from the international community. As Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of Democratic Kampuchea, had

said recently, Viet Nam would never solve its internal problems until it ended its attempts to subjugate the Khmer people. Prince Sihanouk had also urged countries to withhold assistance from Viet Nam until it implemented United Nations resolutions on Kampuchea.

35. In the 10 years that Viet Nam had been flouting General Assembly resolutions, its position had weakened steadily. Still, it clung desperately to its expansionist policy, misrepresenting the problem of Kampuchea as one of civil war. Continued occupation of Kampuchea was the real goal of Vietnamese proposals for "negotiations among Khmers", i.e. between the puppet régime in Phnom Penh and the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. Despite Viet Nam's worn-out promises to withdraw its troops, battle still raged in Kampuchea and Soviet military assistance continued to pour in. The puppet régime in Phnom Penh was weakening under attacks from Coalition Government forces and Viet Nam was obviously keeping its troops in Kampuchea for fear that, without them, the régime would collapse altogether.

36. Hanoi must choose between a negotiated political settlement with the Coalition Government headed by Prince Sihanouk, or the continued isolation and impoverishment of its country. The Soviet Union, for its part, could do much to bring Viet Nam over to the side of reason. Continued Soviet assistance to Viet Nam simply reinforced the view that the Soviet Union had no plans of abandoning its expansionist strategy in South-East Asia, even in the era of "glasnost".

37. Mrs. HOANG BICH LIEN (Observer for Viet Nam) said that, once again, the Council was being asked to adopt a draft decision which totally misrepresented the current situation in Kampuchea. Draft decision XIX merely repeated previous resolutions without acknowledging any of the ongoing positive developments in the region. As her delegation had already pointed out, human rights were no longer being violated in Kampuchea. The draft decision interfered in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and simply assisted mounting efforts in South-East Asia to thwart a political settlement.

A recorded vote was taken on draft decision XIX.

In favour: Australia, Belgium, Belize, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, India, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Poland, Syrian Arab Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Iraq, Trinidad and Tobago.

Draft decision XIX was adopted by 40 votes to 9, with 2 abstentions (decision 1988/143).

DRAFT DECISIONS XX AND XXI

Draft decisions XX and XXI were adopted (decisions 1988/144 and 1988/145).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Social development

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1988/91)

38. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 12. In paragraph 22 of the report, the Committee recommended four draft resolutions for adoption by the Council, namely: I, "Review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice"; II, "United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons"; III, "Achievement of social justice"; IV, "Extreme poverty". In paragraph 23 of the report, the Committee recommended two draft decisions for adoption by the Council, namely: I, "Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders"; II, "Report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination and information in the field of youth".

39. He invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions and decisions.

Draft resolutions I, II, III and IV were adopted (resolutions 1988/44, 1988/45, 1988/46 and 1988/47).

Draft decisions I and II were adopted (decisions 1988/146 and 1988/147).

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*concluded*)* (E/1988/L.19, E/1988/L.28)

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1988/L.28 (*concluded*)*

40. The PRESIDENT said that a member of the secretariat of the Council would read out the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution E/1988/L.28.

41. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the sponsors had decided that the fifth and last preambular paragraph should read as follows:

> "*Noting* that the Committee agreed, in examining reports, to take due account of the different cultural and socio-economic systems of the countries,".

42. Mrs. MUKHERJEE (India) suggested that the word "countries" be replaced by "States parties to the Convention" in the revised version of the last preambular paragraph.

43. Mr. KRENKEL (Observer for Austria) said that such an amendment would be logical since only States parties to the Convention would be submitting reports.

Draft resolution E/1988/L.28, as orally revised and amended, was adopted (resolution 1988/48).

44. Ms. SANTHOSE (Observer for Indonesia) said that the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/1988/L.19) had not been available until the day before delegations were due to make their comments. Late distribution of reports posed a particular problem for Indonesia and

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*Resumed from the 13th meeting.

other countries whose reports had been considered by the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Elections and nominations (*concluded*)

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (*concluded*) (E/1988/L.4)

45. The PRESIDENT said that the Group of African States had decided to endorse the candidatures of Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire for election to four of the Group's five vacancies on the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme. It also wished to postpone until the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council the election of the other member from the Group for a three-year term beginning on the first day of the organizational session of the Governing Council, in February 1989. If he heard no objection, he would declare Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire elected to the Governing Council. The election of the remaining member from the African Group would be deferred to the Council's second regular session of 1988.

*It was so decided.**

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

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*See decision 1988/150.

17th meeting

Friday, 27 May 1988, at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela).

E/1988/SR.17

AGENDA ITEM 5

Consideration of the necessary arrangements for the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (*concluded*)* (E/1988/L.30)

1. Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Vice-President of the Council in charge of consultations), introducing draft decision E/1988/L.30, said that the adoption of the decision would mean that aspects of the preparation for the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 could proceed more expeditiously, and he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus. There remained, however, an issue on which agreement had yet to be reached, namely, the Committee's method of work with regard to the possibility of establishing working groups. The delegations which had participated in the consultations hoped that the Council would authorize him to continue consultations in the next few weeks so that the issue could be resolved before the second regular session.

2. The regional groups had informed him that Mr. Vraalsen (Norway) had been nominated as Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Kueck (German Democratic Republic) as Vice-Chairman and a representative of Zambia as Rapporteur. He had not yet received nominations from the Group of Asian and Latin American and Caribbean States for the other two positions of Vice-Chairman. He assumed that the Council would be able to request the nominees to the Bureau to start consultations right away in preparation for the Committee's work.

3. Mr. BROWN (Canada) said that his delegation was pleased with the progress of the consultations on draft decision E/1988/L.30 and supported the suggestion that the members of the Bureau should be encouraged to participate actively in the preparations for the mid-term review.

4. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that he hoped that the outstanding issues would be solved during the forthcoming negotiations.

5. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision E/1988/L.30, on the understanding that it would also authorize Mr. Pashkevich to continue consultations on the method of work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee with regard to the possibility of establishing working groups, so that the issue could be resolved expeditiously during the second regular session of the Council, in July.

It was so decided (decision 1988/148).

6. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objections he would take it that the Council wished to request the nominees to the Bureau of the *Ad Hoc* Committee to start consultations right away in preparation for the work of the Committee.

It was so decided.

7. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 5.

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*Resumed from the 11th meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1988 (E/1988/L.20, E/1988/L.29)

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider a note by the Secretariat (E/1988/L.20) which contained, in section I, a draft provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1988, and, in section II, proposals submitted by the Bureau on the organization of the work of the session in accordance with Council decision 1988/101. In section III the Council's attention was drawn to a draft programme of work and in section IV to the status of documentation as at 27 April 1988.

9. Mr. BROWN (Canada), introducing draft decision E/1988/L.29 entitled "International co-operation to integrate women in development" said that the draft decision dealt with a revision of the title of item 7 in the list of questions—approved by the Council in its decision 1988/10—for consideration at the Council's second regular session of 1988.

10. Following a procedural discussion in which Mr. GALAL (Egypt), Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GAOUTHE (Observer for Mauritania), Mr. VALDEZ-CARRILLO (Peru), Ms. LAFORTUNE (Canada), Mr. JØNCK (Denmark), Mr. PILBEAM (Australia), Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Council) took part, the PRESIDENT suggested that the meeting should be suspended in order to hold informal consultations to clarify any misunderstandings with regard to draft decision E/1988/L.29 and document E/1988/L.20.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.40 p.m.

11. The PRESIDENT said that as a result of the consultations held during the suspension, it had been agreed to defer consideration of draft decision E/1988/L.29 until the second regular session of 1988, when it would be considered under item 1 of the provisional agenda. Secondly, paragraph 6 of section II of document E/1988/L.20 would be replaced by the following:

> "In the light of the Council's decision at its first regular session to refer draft resolutions I and IV of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-second session to the Council's second regular session for 1988, these two draft resolutions will be considered under agenda item 17 entitled 'International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system'."

12. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to those two decisions.

*It was so decided.**

13. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Council) said that the Council might wish to add another item, on elections and nominations, to the draft provisional agenda for the second regular session since, at its 16th meeting, it had deferred the election of one member of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme until the second regular session of 1988.

14. He then reported on the current status of the documentation and revisions in the draft programme of work for the second regular session.

15. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to approve the draft provisional agenda and draft programme of work for the second regular session of 1988 as contained in document E/1988/L.20, in their revised form and as orally revised by the Secretary.

*It was so decided.**

16. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 15.

Closure of the session

17. The PRESIDENT said that the Economic and Social Council had thus concluded the work of its first regular session of 1988 and declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

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* See decision 1988/151.

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